

# THE COLUMBUS REGION



# COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE



# LIVE TO REIMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE

**COLUMBUS**  
LIVE FORWARD

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Published January 2023

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# WELCOME TO THE COLUMBUS REGION

Since we produced the last edition of the Relocation Guide, two noteworthy figures have made waves by spontaneously moving to Columbus.

First was Saeed Jones, the accomplished poet and essayist whose memoir, “How We Fight for Our Lives,” won the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction. He came to Columbus from New York City that fall after a singular yet convincing visit in October 2018. (Read more about the decision in his essay excerpt on page 73.)

Then, in 2022, hockey star Johnny Gaudreau made headlines by signing with the Columbus Blue Jackets, passing up more lucrative offers from his former team and his home state. His experience with the city before his move had been limited to brief visits when his former team, the Calgary Flames, played at Nationwide Arena. Columbus, he said, offered everything he and his wife were looking for in a home for their growing family.

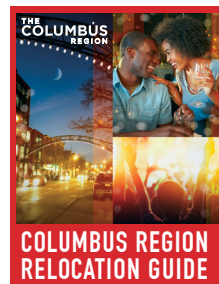
But this is hardly a new or even an uncommon phenomenon. Entrepreneur Mark Kvamme shocked Silicon Valley in 2011 when he left it to start venture capital firm Drive Capital here in Columbus, betting on the Midwest to be the “next big thing” in tech. Since then, notable tech powerhouses—Amazon Web Services, Google, Facebook parent company Meta and, most recently, Intel—have all followed suit, locating to and investing in the Region.

To outsiders, these moves might be puzzling. To those of us in the Columbus Region, however, it's just common sense. Our low cost of living, high concentration of colleges and universities and the fresh talent they provide, and easy access to much of the country's population and industry all make Central Ohio an ideal place to write a book, raise a family, or start or grow a business. Add to that the charm and friendliness for which Midwesterners are known, and it becomes even easier to see what's drawn Jones, Gaudreau, Kvamme and thousands of others—myself included—to the Region.



This guide exists, in part, to introduce the world to everything the Columbus Region has to offer; its other purpose is to provide helpful information for anyone interested in making the transition here. These pages contain resources for virtually everything you need to know about living in Columbus and the counties surrounding it, from practical information on schools and housing to first-person accounts from those who have made the move here from locations around the world. We hope it'll serve as an impetus and a guide for your own relocation to the area.

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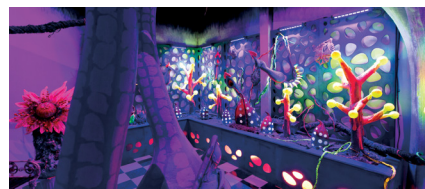


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# WELCOME TO THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

01.

“COLUMBUS IS A VERY DIVERSE, WELCOMING AND AFFORDABLE CITY. COLUMBUS IS GROWING AGGRESSIVELY AND HAS A GREAT POTENTIAL FUTURE. IT CONTINUES TO BE A PLACE FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECADES TO COME.”

**SUDARSHAN PYAKRUEL**

Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio | Executive Director

*Moved here in 2014 from Nepal via Cleveland, Ohio*

## COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

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# REGIONAL COUNTY PROFILES

The 11 counties in the Columbus Region comprise more than 2.25 million people.

**T**he Columbus Region is uniquely poised to offer greater access to the U.S. market than any other major metro, with more than 45 percent of the U.S. population and headquarters' operations accessible within a 10-hour drive.


The Region's 50-plus college and university campuses enroll more than 132,000 students, giving it one of the highest concentrations of college students in the nation. Economically, no single industry sector represents more than 17 percent of the Region's

employment, making it incredibly diverse and, therefore, stable.

The area is home to significant concentrations of Japanese, Bhutanese and Somali populations. The top five countries for immigrants include India, China, Mexico, Somalia and Ethiopia.

Columbus is one of only 14 cities in the U.S. to add over 100,000 people from 2010–2020 and the only city to do so located in the Midwest. Almost all of the growth in the Region (92%) is from non-white-only groups.

Unemployment rates from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics, average January–August 2022, not seasonally adjusted; top private employers data from One Columbus, number represents number of full-time equivalent employees; demographic data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Population Estimates; and Columbus Council on World Affairs 2022–2023 Report.



## DELAWARE COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
April 1, 1808

**COUNTY SEAT**  
Delaware

**AREA**  
442.41 sq. miles

**POPULATION**  
220,740

**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**71,521**

**NAMED FOR**  
Delaware Native Americans



**3.98%**

Unemployment Rate



**39.2**

Median Age



**\$111,411**

Median Household Income



**\$135,842**

Average Household Income




**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

JPMorgan  
Chase & Co.  
**10,197 employees**

Anthem Blue Cross  
and Blue Shield  
**899 employees**

OhioHealth  
Corp.  
**896 employees**



## FAIRFIELD COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
Dec. 9, 1800

**COUNTY SEAT**  
Lancaster

**AREA**  
505.11 sq. miles

**POPULATION**  
161,064

**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**57,071**

**NAMED FOR**  
The beauty of its "fair fields"



**4.03%**

Unemployment Rate



**39.6**

Median Age



**\$70,906**

Median Household Income



**\$88,331**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Anchor  
Hocking, LLC  
**765 employees**

Nifco  
America Corp.  
**612 employees**

Glasfloss Industries  
Ohio, LLC  
**220 employees**



## FRANKLIN COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
April 30, 1803



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Columbus



**AREA**  
539.87 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
1,321,414



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**519,237**



**NAMED FOR**  
Benjamin Franklin



**4.05%**

Unemployment Rate



**34.1**

Median Age



**\$62,352**

Median Household Income



**\$84,611**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Nationwide Mutual  
Insurance Co.  
16,000 employees

Cardinal  
Health, Inc.  
8,662 employees

JPMorgan  
Chase & Co.  
7,100 employees



## KNOX COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1808



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Mount Vernon



**AREA**  
527.12 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
62,897



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**23,027**



**NAMED FOR**  
Revolutionary War  
Gen. Henry Knox



**4.07%**

Unemployment Rate



**39.4**

Median Age



**\$61,590**

Median Household Income



**\$71,731**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Ariel Corp.  
1,600 employees

JELD-WEN, Inc.  
460 employees

FT Precision, Inc.  
277 employees



## LICKING COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1808



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Newark



**AREA**  
686.5 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
180,401



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**64,466**



**NAMED FOR**  
Area salt licks



**4.11%**

Unemployment Rate



**40**

Median Age



**\$67,736**

Median Household Income



**\$87,729**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Amazon.com, Inc.  
3,500 employees

Victoria's Secret & Co.  
1,307 employees

Axiom Plastics, LLC  
900 employees



## LOGAN COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1818



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Bellefontaine



**AREA**  
458.44 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
46,035



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**18,604**



**NAMED FOR**  
Revolutionary War  
Gen. Benjamin Logan



**4.15%**

Unemployment Rate



**41.2**

Median Age



**\$60,417**

Median Household Income



**\$73,786**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Honda Development &  
Manufacturing of America, LLC  
**2,650 employees**

NEX  
Transport, Inc.  
**1,375 employees**

Midwest  
Express, Inc.  
**1,350 employees**



## MADISON COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1810



**COUNTY SEAT**  
London



**AREA**  
465.44 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
44,386



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**15,017**



**NAMED FOR**  
President  
James Madison



**4.22%**

Unemployment Rate



**41.1**

Median Age



**\$68,633**

Median Household Income



**\$83,461**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Amazon.com, Inc.  
**5,100 employees**

Stanley Electric  
U.S. Co., Inc.  
**1,300 employees**

Target Corp.  
**1,240 employees**



## MARION COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
April 1, 1820



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Marion



**AREA**  
403.84 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
65,291



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**24,617**



**NAMED FOR**  
Revolutionary War  
Gen. Francis Marion



**4.38%**

Unemployment Rate



**41.6**

Median Age



**\$49,225**

Median Household Income



**\$66,924**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Whirlpool  
**2,344 employees**

Silver Line  
Building Products  
**600 employees**

Wyandot Snacks  
**400 employees**



## MORROW COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1848



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Mount Gilead



**AREA**  
403.22 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
35,151



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**13,064**



**NAMED FOR**  
Ohio Governor  
Jeremiah Morrow



**3.87%**

Unemployment Rate



**42.7**

Median Age



**\$61,769**

Median Household Income



**\$78,353**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Cardington Yukata  
Technologies, Inc.  
**648 employees**

Dollar Tree  
Distribution, Inc.  
**420 employees**

Glen-Gery  
Corp.  
**75 employees**



## PICKAWAY COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
March 1, 1810



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Circleville



**AREA**  
501.91 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
59,333



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**19,808**



**NAMED FOR**  
A misspelling of  
the Piqua Native  
American tribe



**3.71%**

Unemployment Rate



**39.5**

Median Age



**\$61,629**

Median Household Income



**\$76,715**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

DuPont Specialty  
Products USA, LLC  
**556 employees**

OhioHealth  
Corp.  
**451 employees**

Ernie Green  
Industries, Inc.  
**350 employees**



## UNION COUNTY

**ESTABLISHED**  
April 1, 1820



**COUNTY SEAT**  
Marysville



**AREA**  
436.65 sq. miles



**POPULATION**  
64,971



**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**20,695**



**NAMED FOR**  
Union of four formerly  
individual counties



**3.62%**

Unemployment Rate



**38.1**

Median Age



**\$88,565**

Median Household Income



**\$108,139**

Average Household Income



**TOP  
PRIVATE  
EMPLOYERS**

Honda Development &  
Manufacturing of America, LLC  
**6,870 employees**

The ScottsMiracle-  
Gro Co., LLC  
**1,337 employees**

Select  
Sires, Inc.  
**287 employees**

# 75 MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The Region has seen a lot of growth and change in its 200-plus-year history. Here are some noteworthy moments from its past.

**1812**

The town of Columbus was platted.

**1814**

The first Ohio Statehouse was constructed.

**1815**

Lucas Sullivant, founder of Franklinton and godfather of Columbus, was authorized to build a bridge over the Scioto River to connect Franklinton to Columbus.

**1824**

Columbus became the Franklin County seat.

**1830**

Capital University opened.

**1834**

Columbus was incorporated as a city.

**1838** ▼

The Ohio legislature passed a bill establishing Columbus as the permanent location of the Ohio Statehouse.

**1839**

Construction began on the new Statehouse; it was completed more than 20 years later, in 1861.



**1850** ▲

The first locomotive ran through Columbus after Union Station was built.

**1851**

Dr. Lincoln Goodale donated land for Goodale Park, the first city park.

**1861**

Camp Chase opened as a Civil War encampment and Union prison.

**1865**

President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train traveled through Columbus; he lay in repose for one day in the

new Statehouse as 50,000 Ohioans paid their respects.

**1866**

The P.W. Huntington & Co. Bank opened for business.

**1870**

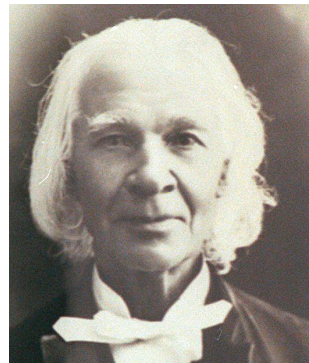
The Ohio State University was founded.

**1871**

The first edition of the *Daily Dispatch*—now known as *The Columbus Dispatch*—was published.

**1876**

The North Market was established by city ordinance.



**1880** ▲

The Rev. James Poindexter was the first African American elected to city council.

**1886**

The Columbus Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) was

organized as part of the Women's Education and Industrial Union, serving as a boardinghouse for young, single working women and operating a kindergarten and nursery for working mothers.

**1888**

The High Street arches were installed for the Northwest Territory centennial celebration. They would be expanded in the 1890s and later removed in 1916.

**1890**

The United Mine Workers Union was founded in Columbus on the site of the old city hall (now the Ohio Theatre) on East State Street. Its headquarters would be located at High and Chestnut streets until 1898.

**1891**

The first electric streetcar debuted.

**1894**

Construction began on the city's first skyscraper, the 11-story Wyandotte building.

**1907**

The Columbus Main Library opened.

**1910**

The Southern Theatre opened.



**1922**

Ohio Stadium opened on The Ohio State University campus.

**1927**

The American Insurance Union Citadel (50 W. Broad St.) became the tallest building in Columbus, at 47 stories and 555 feet, 5 inches. Today, the iconic art deco skyscraper is known as the LeVeque Tower and is the second-tallest in the city.

**1928**

The Ohio Theatre opened.

**1929**

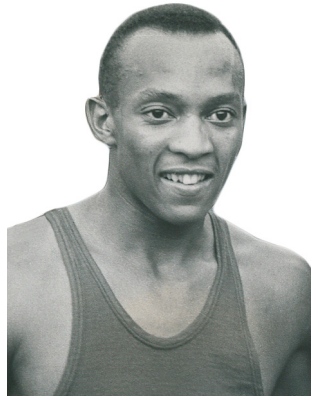
Battelle Memorial Institute opened.

**1931**

The Columbus Museum of Art opened.

**1934**

Big Bear grocery opened the nation's first self-serve supermarket in a former roller skating rink on West Lane Avenue. For a short time, Big Bear kept a live bear in a cage outside the door to attract customers.

**1936** ▲

OSU track star Jesse Owens became the first athlete to win four Olympic gold medals during the Berlin Summer Games—in front of Adolf Hitler.

**1956**

The world's first captive-born gorilla, Colo, was born at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

**1962**

The inaugural "Festival of the Arts" took place on the Ohio Statehouse lawn; today it's known as the Columbus Arts Festival and has found its home to the west, along the Scioto riverfront.

**1965** ◀

Jerrie Mock, a Newark native, became the first woman to fly around the globe solo. Her single-engine Cessna, dubbed "Spirit of Columbus," took off and landed at John Glenn Columbus International Airport (then Port Columbus International Airport).

**1969**

The nation's first Wendy's opened on Broad Street.

**1974**

The Rhodes Tower (30 E. Broad St.) became the tallest building in Columbus, at 41 stories and 629 feet. It remains the tallest in the city and is the fifth-tallest in the state.

**1975**

OSU running back Archie Griffin became the first player to win two Heisman Trophy awards.

**1976**

The first Memorial Tournament, organized by native son Jack Nicklaus, was held.

**1977**

The Columbus Clippers made their home debut in the refurbished Franklin County Stadium (renamed Cooper Stadium in 1984).

**1977**

The Columbus Landmarks Foundation became the city's first organized group committed to historic preservation.

**1978**

The Columbus Zoo hired Jack Hanna to be its new director.

**1979**

Federal court judge Robert Duncan ruled that the Columbus School Board intentionally created and maintained an illegally segregated school system. As a result, Columbus became one of the first public school districts in the country to fully desegregate via busing.

**1981**

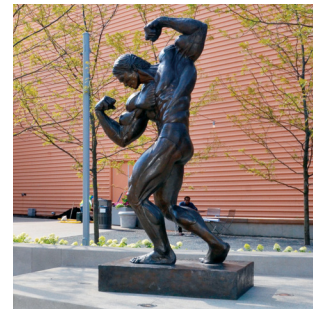
The first gay Pride Parade was held.

**1981**

The first Red, White & BOOM! was held.

**1984**

The first Short North Gallery Hop was held.

**1989** ▲

The first Arnold Classic bodybuilding competition—now the multiday, multisport Arnold Sports Festival—took place.

**1990**

OSU's Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital opened.

**1993**

The Greater Columbus Convention Center opened.

**1994**

Columbus was one of the original seven cities awarded a Major League Soccer franchise: the Columbus Crew. The city also was the first to build a soccer-specific stadium for MLS play.

**1997**

The National Hockey League approved an application for a Columbus franchise: the Columbus Blue Jackets.

## 1998

The Easton Town Center groundbreaking was attended by retail giant Les Wexner, then-Mayor Greg Lashutka, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and hockey legend Wayne Gretzky.

## 1999

Former Columbus City Council president Michael Coleman became the city's first Black mayor.

## 1999

Easton Town Center opened.

## 2002

The High Street arches were reinstalled in the Short North.

## 2003

The OSU football team won the Fiesta Bowl to clinch its first national championship since the 1968 season.

## 2004

The downtown Lazarus department store closed after 153 years of operation.

## 2006

The Nationwide Foundation pledged \$50 million to Children's Hospital (which was renamed Nationwide Children's Hospital).

## 2008

The Columbus Crew won its first MLS Cup.

## 2009

The Columbus Clippers' new downtown home, Huntington Park, opened with a game against the Toledo Mud Hens.



## 2009 ▲

Lance Armstrong and an estimated 2,500 cyclists kicked off the first Pelotonia.

## 2012

Columbus celebrated its bicentennial.

## 2013

Columbus was deemed one of the seven smartest communities in the world by the Intelligent Community Forum of New York. It earned the honor again in 2014 and 2015, when it earned the top honor of Intelligent Community of the Year. Other Central Ohio cities on the top seven list since the early 2000s include Dublin (2010 and 2011) and Westerville (2019 and 2020).

## 2014

The OSU football team became the first team to win the College Football Playoff National Championship.

## 2014

Michael Coleman became the city's longest-serving mayor; he announced later that year that he would not run for a fifth term.

## 2016

Former Columbus City Council president Andrew Ginther took office as Columbus' first new mayor in 15 years.

## 2016

Port Columbus was renamed John Glenn Columbus International Airport in honor of illustrious astronaut and senator, John Glenn, who passed away Dec. 8 of the same year.

## 2016

Columbus beat out 77 other cities to win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge, a prize accompanied by a \$50 million grant for the effort.



## 2018 ▲

Columbus hosted the NCAA Women's Final Four basketball championship.

## 2018

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum, the nation's first memorial dedicated to veterans of all U.S. conflicts across all branches of service, opened in Franklinton.

## 2019

The City of Columbus established the Sustainable Columbus initiative, which amplifies and augments environmentally friendly policies throughout the community.

## 2020

The first cases of Covid-19 in Columbus are reported in March.

## 2020

The Columbus Zoo produces the world's first litter of cheetah cubs utilizing in vitro fertilization.

## 2021

Lower.com Field, a soccer-specific stadium that can fit 20,371 people, opened its doors, making Columbus the first city in the U.S. to build two soccer-specific stadiums for MLS play.



## 2022 ▲

In January, Intel announced plans to build two semiconductor chip factories in Licking County near New Albany, representing an investment of more than \$20 billion in the Region. Groundbreaking took place in September.

## 2022

In September, The Ohio State University named its growing innovation district Carmenton. It will be a hub for private, public and academic sectors to collaborate.

# FACES OF THE COLUMBUS REGION

The demographic data on residents of the Columbus Region paint a picture of diversity, financial stability and growth.



## INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN



Professional and Business Services **17%**



Government **15%**



Education and Health **15%**



Retail Trade **9%**



Leisure and Hospitality **9%**



Transportation and Utilities **8%**



Manufacturing **7%**



Financial Activities **7%**



Construction and Mining **5%**



Other Services **5%**



Wholesale Trade **3%**



## GLOBAL MATTERS



Metro Area Growth from International Migration, 2020-2022 **37%**



Foreign-born Residents **190,000**



Languages Spoken **90+**



Refugees Settled During 2020-2021 **400**



Local Employees at Foreign-owned Firms **50,000+**

## BY THE NUMBERS

Unemployment Rate  
**3.49%**

Labor Force  
**1,177,589**

Median Age  
**37**

Adults 25+ with an Associate's Degree or Higher  
**47.2%**

Average Home Sale Price  
**\$333,530**

Median household income  
**\$72,316**

Average Household Size  
**2.47**

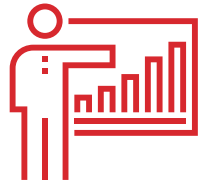
Households  
**903,843**

Population, 2021  
**2.25 MILLION**

Population Growth, 2010-2021  
**13.1%**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2022-08; Esri Business Analyst Online, 2022-088; Columbus Board of Realtors MLS Housing Reports, 2022-08; U.S. Census; Columbus Council on World Affairs 2022-2023 Report

Image credit: Stephen Brady



NO. 1

FOR WAGE  
GROWTH AMONG  
THE MIDWEST'S  
LARGEST METROS

U.S. Labor Department

NO. 1

FOR JOB  
GROWTH AMONG  
THE MIDWEST'S  
LARGEST METROS

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

NO. 1

FOR POPULATION  
GROWTH AMONG  
THE MIDWEST'S  
LARGEST METROS

U.S. Census

# WHERE WE RANK

The Columbus metropolitan area is home to the 14th-largest city in the U.S. and is nationally ranked as a leader in many other areas. Here are just a few.

## NO. 1 Remote-Ready City

*Livability, 2021*

"Columbus, OH, takes the top spot for remote-ready cities in 2021, thanks to its forward-looking outlook, high quality of life, affordability and welcoming attitude—it's a well-rounded community where remote workers of all backgrounds can thrive."

## NO. 1 Rising City for Startups

*Forbes, 2018*

"Columbus has established a robust startup culture thanks in part to the role of venture funds for some of the city's biggest companies. Nationwide, State Automobile Mutual Insurance and Grange Insurance all created funds in recent years to support startups. With financing available to build companies, Columbus has done a better job of retaining post-graduation talent from places like Ohio State, which has 60,000 students on its Columbus campus. The working-age population in the city has grown 9% over the past five years, in sharp contrast to the declines in many of its Midwest rivals."

## TOP 10

### City Where Millennials are Moving

*SmartAsset, 2020*

"Millennials may be interested in moving to Columbus because housing costs are generally more reasonable there than in many other large U.S. cities. In our 2019 study, Columbus, Ohio ranked as the ninth city where renters can most easily afford to live alone."



## TOP 10

### City for Gen Z

*Commercial Café, 2022*

"Columbus is one of the nation's hot spots for young professionals looking for affordability in tandem with community. In fact, it was also ranked among the top 10 best U.S. metros for Millennials. Additionally, Columbus' cost of living is 11% below the national average. The city's affordability—as well as its relatively low unemployment—secured its finish high in the standings, while also cementing it as a strong option for Midwestern Gen Zers and more."

## JOHNNY GAUDREAU

Left wing, Columbus Blue Jackets

I grew up in New Jersey, went to college in Boston and then went right to Canada to play for the Calgary Flames. I didn't have any ties here in Columbus at all, really. My wife and I were expecting our first child, and we'd heard so many good things about raising a family here from Blue Jackets players, past and present. There are all the neighborhoods and suburbs just outside the city but still close and convenient, and we heard how nice they were. I picked a lot of brains of a lot of people who have played here. We heard just one thing after another that made this seem like a perfect fit for us. That's really what attracted us here.

There were other places we looked at, including going back to New Jersey or Calgary. But Columbus just feels like a homier city, and that's what we wanted. We're in Upper Arlington, so we're just 10 minutes from the restaurants and breweries downtown, in this nice little neighborhood that's ideal for us. The people are so friendly and nice. Everything is super close and convenient. It's perfect.

*As told to Emma Frankart Henterly*



## TOP 10 LGBTQ-Friendly City for Millennials

*Money Under 30, 2022*

"Columbus has one of the highest LGBTQ+ populations in the U.S. after San Francisco and New York, so if you're looking for a large LGBTQ+ community with some great resources, Columbus may be the perfect fit for you. With dozens of bars, restaurants, and retail locations owned and operated by those in the LGBTQ+ community, you'll find a vibrant scene on the streets of Columbus."

## NO. 2 City for New College Grads

*SmartAsset, 2022*

"As the home of Ohio State University, Columbus is the second-ranked city for new college graduates. The city, which has the second-highest overall fun score, ranks in the top 10 for average Yelp bar score (seventh) and average Yelp restaurant score (ninth). People in their 20s make up 19.63% of the population of Columbus, which is the 17th-highest percentage across our study. The city also has the seventh-lowest unemployment rate for bachelor's degree holders (2%) and 24th-most Indeed job listings (3,831)."

## NO. 1

### City to Work in Tech

*SmartAsset, 2018*

"You may see Columbus, Ohio and not think of it as a tech worker's paradise but the data suggests otherwise. Columbus has plenty of tech jobs, over 4% of all workers are employed in tech here, and the average tech worker takes home a salary of over \$91,100 per year. In both of those metrics Columbus ranks in the top 25. Columbus is also more affordable than many cities as well. Columbus is about 10% cheaper than the rest of the country on average. Another plus to living in Columbus and working in tech is that you will likely be at the top of the local income ladder. The average tech worker earns more than 1.8 times what the average worker earns."

## TOP 10

### Best-Paying Metro for Recent College Grads

*Self Financial, 2021*

"Median earnings for recent college grads (adjusted): **\$51,856**

Median earnings for recent college grads (actual): **\$47,500**

Recent college grad proportion of the total population: **2.7%**

Cost of living: **8.4% below average"**

# WELCOMING FOR ALL

The Columbus Region aims to be a community with an equitable playing field for all people, regardless of race, gender identity, sexuality, disability or history.

**“WE ADVOCATE FOR REFORMING AND DISMANTLING THE INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS THAT PERPETUATE OPPRESSION AND RACISM.”**

**CAROLINE WOLIVER**

Director of Leadership and Social Justice, YWCA

**A**lthough the city’s name comes from the history books, Columbus is looking toward the future—ensuring that the Region is a welcoming, equitable and diverse place for all.

Local businesses, social enterprises and nonprofits make a point to help lift those who need it most. Stonewall Columbus provides support groups, as well as social and professional development opportunities, for the LGBTQ+ community. Honest Jobs and the local restaurant chain Hot Chicken Takeover help formerly incarcerated people find employment so they can move forward with their lives. Goodwill Columbus and Lopaus Point Waffles employ people with disabilities in their facilities, providing much-deserved (yet hard to find) opportunities.

Beyond helping underserved populations find meaningful work, several organizations are dedicated to empowering historically marginalized groups. The Columbus Urban League, the African American Leadership Academy, the YWCA and Experience Columbus all have programs through which Black and other minority individuals can network, expand their spheres of influence and lift one another up.

“We advocate for reforming and dismantling the institutions and systems that perpetuate oppression and racism. We have this unique opportunity: That we both educate our broader community on these issues, and we engage legislators and elected officials to change those systems. Then we also provide a variety of empowerment programs to make sure women and gender-nonconforming folks are able to understand the nuances behind the kind of change that Columbus is requiring,” says Caroline Woliver, director of leadership and social justice at the YWCA. “At the end of the program, they leave with the tools to recognize and challenge discriminatory practices within their workplaces and overall spheres of influence.”

Additionally, the YWCA’s housing and shelter services provide needed hope for the community.

“We don’t just treat the symptoms of poverty and inequity,” Woliver says. “We’re combatting inequity and injustice from all sides.”

Traci Martinez, managing partner of the Columbus office of the Squire Patton Boggs law firm, says the Region’s success at expanding its economy has created the need to get more people into the workplace. The Experience Columbus convention and tourism organization, as an example, has created a diversity apprenticeship program designed to get those from communities of color into training programs within the hospitality industry—guaranteeing a base salary while learning various operations within the employer.

“The goal is to have everyone receive a job offer from where they’ve apprenticed,” says Martinez, who serves on the Experience Columbus board, executive committee and equity and inclusion committee. “We need to meet the workforce demand and show prospective employers we have the talent.”

The city is continuing to make progressive strides. According to the FDIC, there are no Black-owned banks in Ohio, though there will be soon when Adelphi Bank, a new venture from several Black community leaders, opens in Columbus. Black-owned banks help level the playing field by increasing Black homeownership and access to capital for



Columbus Urban League CEO Stephanie Hightower speaks with participants of a CUL summer youth program.



*Former Fifth Third Bank Central Ohio president and CEO Jordan Miller, left, and Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, two of the proposed incorporators of the Black-owned Adelphi Bank*

business and personal development, which fight the effects of redlining and other discriminatory economic practices and help create wealth.

And, of course, it's difficult to do the hard work of dismantling white supremacy without quality healthcare, which is why OhioHealth is trying to make patients feel safe and welcome receiving care.

"We're very committed to having a diverse workforce and ensuring that we look like the community and the patients we serve. We have rallied, not only to create a space where patients and individuals in the community are comfortable and are able to access care regardless of their background," says Aisha Allen, OhioHealth's chief diversity officer and vice president of culture, engagement and inclusion, "we've also leaned into how we engage and retain our diverse talent. We've been focused on making an impact and increasing representation at our leader level by creating a sponsorship program for our high-potential diverse directors. We've had great success with that program; it's been able to

drive retention, as well as drive referrals into the organization who are diverse as well."

While there is and will remain more work to be done in advancing equity with the ultimate goal of justice, Columbus is taking action and making strides in diversity, equity and inclusion. The people of Columbus are doing the important, necessary work of bending the city's moral arc toward justice.

"What's exciting about Columbus is that you have not only the willingness to change the institutions from some of our elected officials, which still need to go further, but there's also a wonderful wealth of community that wants to support one another," Woliver says. "It makes Columbus a beautiful place to reside."



#### MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

Scan the QR code to see a list of minority-owned businesses in the Columbus Region.

**"WE'VE BEEN FOCUSED ON MAKING AN IMPACT AND INCREASING REPRESENTATION AT OUR LEADER LEVEL BY CREATING A SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM FOR OUR HIGH-POTENTIAL DIVERSE DIRECTORS."**

#### AISHA ALLEN

Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Culture, Engagement and Inclusion, OhioHealth

## 2030 Sustainability Smart Columbus Goals

# 15%

OF ALL CAR SALES  
ARE ELECTRIC  
VEHICLES (EVs)

# 50%

OF SALES OF LIGHT  
DUTY FLEETS/  
RIDESHARE  
VEHICLES ARE EV

# 2%

OF MEDIUM- AND  
HEAVY-DUTY FLEET  
VEHICLES SALES  
ARE ZERO-EMISSION  
VEHICLES (ZEVS)

# 25%

INCREASE IN  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
FOR COMMERCIAL  
BUILDINGS

# SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

The Columbus of today and tomorrow has an eye on being green.

**P**rojected to add 1 million new residents by 2050, the Columbus Region is setting out to grow sustainably through a collaborative approach and long-term view.

As part of a Climate Action Plan unveiled in 2021, Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther outlined a vision to reduce carbon emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

But it's not just the city of Columbus tackling this massive challenge. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Franklin County and a number of smaller communities within the Region are taking substantial actions to promote air quality, clean energy, water conservation, green buildings and development, and sustainable transportation. Dublin, Gahanna, Genoa Township, Lockbourne and Upper Arlington were recognized by MORPC as the Region's first set of Sustainable2050 communities, achieving an elevated status for their actions to promote sustainability. Dublin, for one, committed to increasing the percentage of fleet vehicles using alternative fuels. Gahanna implemented an innovative stormwater credit incentive to encourage green stormwater infrastructure and reduce peak flow runoff. And Genoa Township committed to maintenance and improvements to its multipurpose trails, including the Genoa Trail, which is part of the Central Ohio Greenways route and Ohio to Erie Trail.

"The reason it's so important is because we're growing significantly as a region," says Brandi Whetstone, sustainability officer for MORPC. "And with that growth brings exciting opportunities—but also challenges. We're really challenged with, how do we proactively accommodate for this growth while we maintain a balance of social, environmental and economic well-being? It's really important



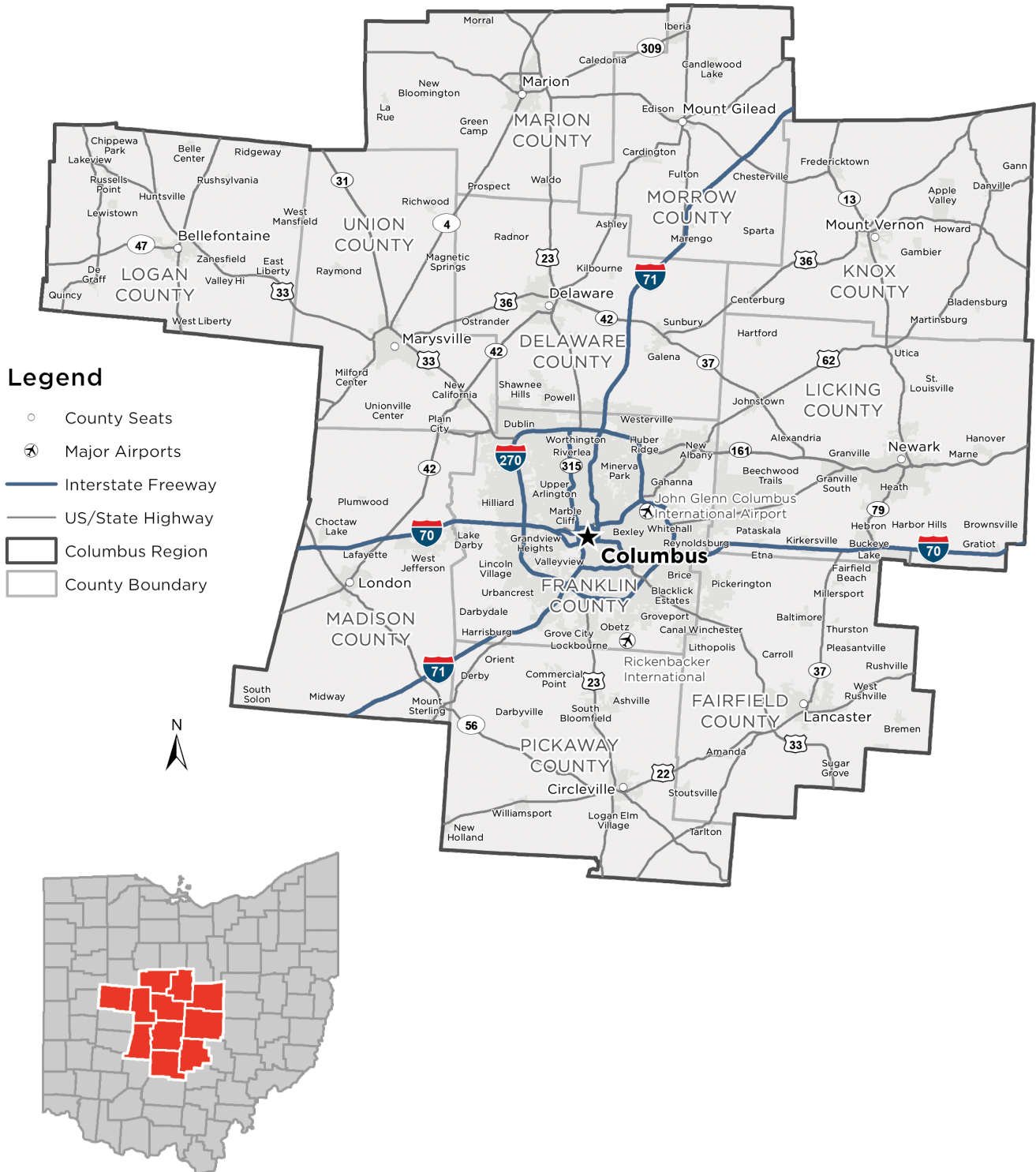
that we work together to collectively shape our communities so that all residents have a high quality of life."

Recognizing the role a healthy environment plays in the Region's future, the city of Columbus set up the Sustainable Columbus initiative to promote environmentally friendly policies throughout the community. And Smart Columbus, a region-wide Smart City initiative led by the city of Columbus and the Columbus Partnership, has identified measurable goals in its sustainability efforts.

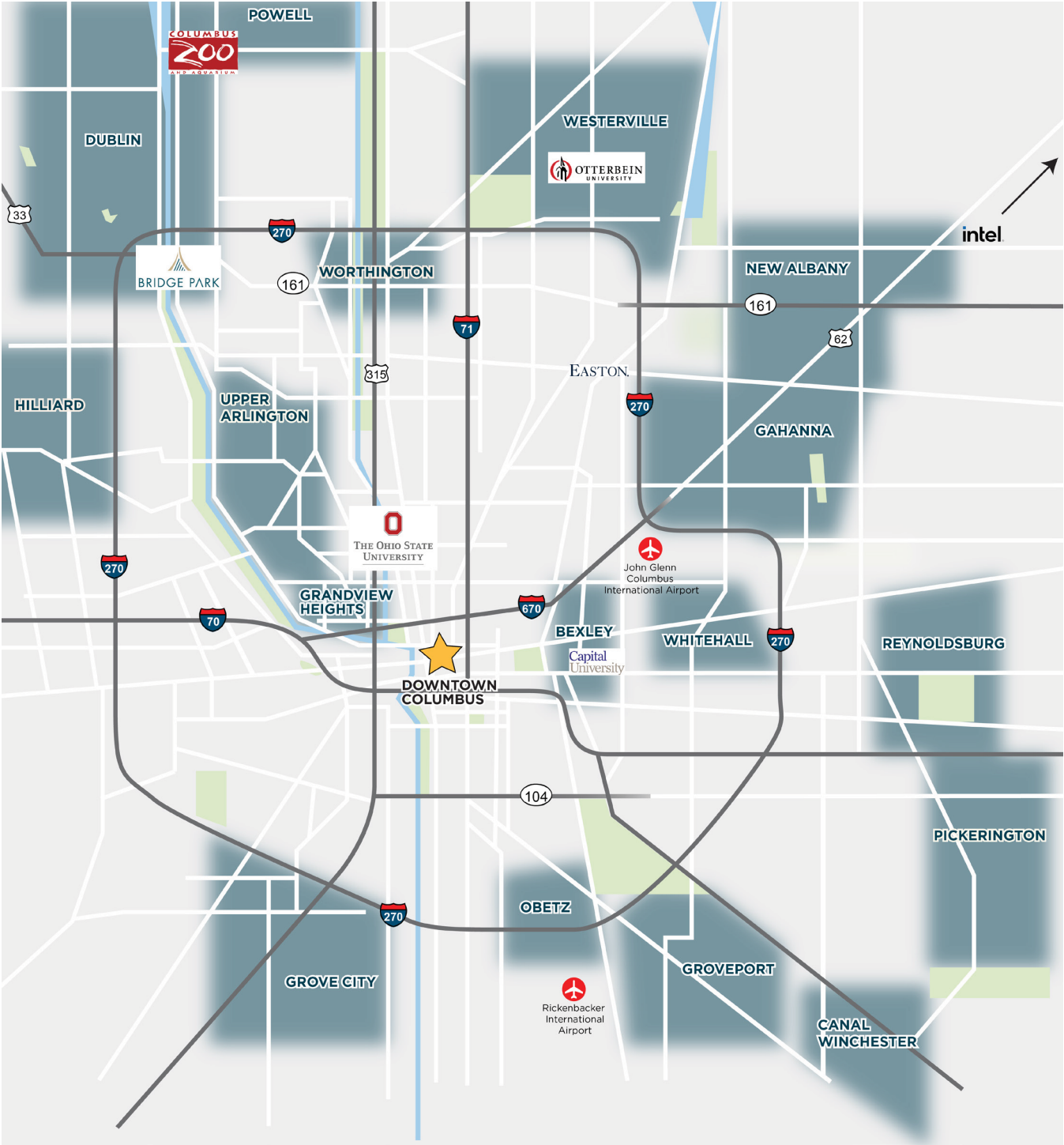
From bike trails to fresh water, the Columbus Region is considered well-positioned for this era of sustainable growth. In fact, Intel Corp. cited the Region's water quality as a key factor in its decision to invest more than \$20 billion in a semiconductor manufacturing campus near New Albany.

"We have a lot of really great rivers and streams throughout the Region, and that's really our competitive advantage when it comes to attractiveness and quality of life," Whetstone says. "I know there are a lot of businesses that have located here in Central Ohio because our access to fresh water is reliable."

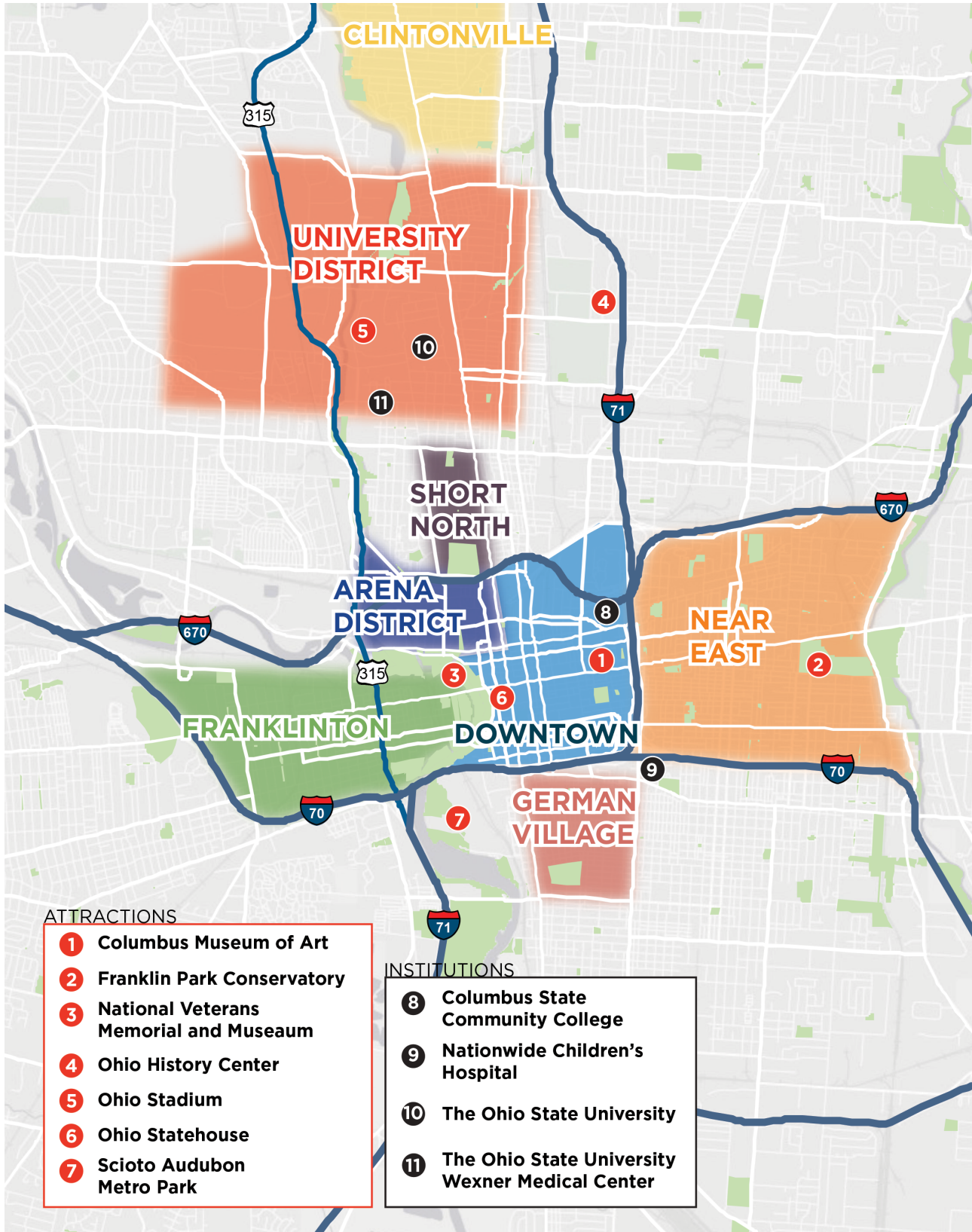
# COLUMBUS REGION MAP



# GREATER COLUMBUS MAP



# DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS MAP



# GETTING AROUND

Central Ohio is well-connected, with multiple public and private transportation options.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT



### Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)

[cota.com](http://cota.com)

614-228-1776



### GoBus

[ridegobus.com](http://ridegobus.com)

888-95-GOBUS

The biggest public transit system in the area, COTA (the Central Ohio Transit Authority) reaches all corners of Columbus and Franklin County. Its fleet of buses on dozens of routes means you rarely have to wait long for a ride, and amenities like real-time bus tracking, free onboard Wi-Fi and bike racks make your trip easier than ever. Fares are \$2 one way; transfer passes good for two hours can be obtained from bus operators. Passes are available for one or 31 days (\$4.50 and \$62, respectively). Discounts are available for children, certain students, seniors, veterans, Medicare card holders, individuals receiving income assistance and individuals with disabilities. Eligible employees of participating downtown Columbus businesses and organizations can sign up for a free C-Pass, which provides free COTA rides and a free annual membership to CoGo Bike Share.

Fares can be paid via the Transit app (free COTA Smartcards are available if you don't have a smartphone) or onboard with exact change, though the service is planning to go cashless at a date to be determined. Passes can be purchased at COTA's downtown offices, the John Glenn Columbus International Airport and retailers throughout the city.

In certain areas of Grove City, Westerville and Columbus, the COTA//Plus app offers affordable, on-demand, point-to-point rides. (Users without



a smartphone can call 614-308-4400 to get set up.) The service is available weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., with some cities offering weekend and late-night options. Base fares start at \$3, with daily and weekly passes available for \$6 and \$20, respectively. Discounts and free rides are available for certain populations and C-Pass members.

The federally funded GoBus, administered by Hocking Athens Perry Community Action, is designed to better serve transportation needs of the entire state. Five routes connect nearly 40 cities, including several in Central Ohio. Ticket pricing is based on the distance traveled, with base rates ranging from \$5 to \$30, plus sales tax and \$2.50 service charge. Children 5 years old and younger ride free.

## AIR TRAVEL



### Two Airports

[flycolumbus.com](http://flycolumbus.com)



The Columbus Region has two major airports. On the east side of Columbus, John Glenn Columbus International Airport is the area's main commercial air hub, with direct flights to more than 40 destinations across the U.S., plus Mexico and Canada. Rickenbacker International Airport on the south side of Columbus is primarily a cargo hub, though Allegiant Air offers discount seasonal and year-round commercial flights to destinations in Florida and along the southeastern coast of the U.S.

## SHARED MOBILITY SYSTEMS



**CoGo Bike Share**  
cogobikeshare.com



**Dockless  
E-Scooters**

spin.app, li.me,  
bird.co, uber.com,  
superpedestrian.com



**Free2move  
Car-Sharing**

free2move.com

Cyclists can rent bikes from CoGo Bike Share, which has a network of more than 600 bicycles at scores of stations scattered throughout central Columbus, Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights and Bexley, via the Lyft app. Pay \$2.25 to “unlock” a bike for 30 minutes (each minute thereafter is 15 cents; e-bike rentals cost \$2.25 to unlock and 15 cents per minute to use). Or get unlimited 30-minute rides with a day pass (\$8) or unlimited 45-minute rides and a discount on



e-bikes with an annual membership (\$85). When you're done, park and lock the bike at a CoGo station. A wide availability of marked and/or dedicated bike lanes in these areas make riding easy, safe and convenient.

Several “shared mobility device” programs offer dockless e-scooters for rent, though some cities have regulations about where the devices can be used. (For example, they're banned in the Short North Arts District and several Columbus parks.) Spin, Lime, Bird, Uber and Superpedestrian LINK all operate with various boundaries and restrictions inside the I-270 outerbelt.

Columbus is also one of a few cities worldwide with Free2move car-sharing service. Users reserve and unlock a nearby vehicle using the Free2move app, available on Apple and Google app stores, then use the app to end the rental and lock the car when they're finished. Car-shares are rented by the minute and can be parked in any metered space in the coverage area, free of charge. The app also offers longer-term car rentals and driver services.

## DRIVING AND RIDE-SHARES



**Uber and Lyft**

uber.com

lyft.com



**Taxi Companies**

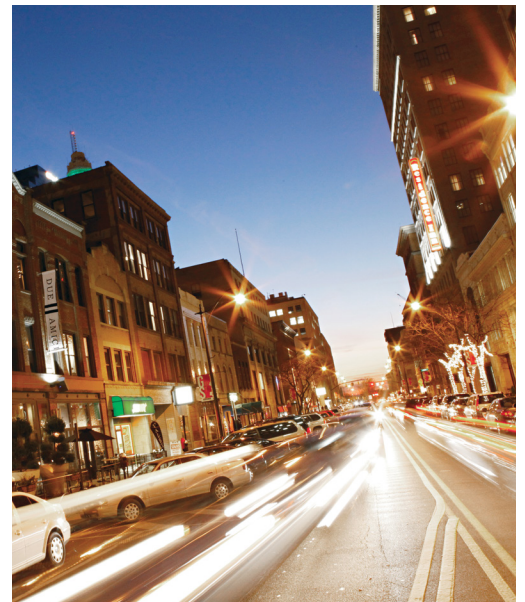
yellowcabcolumbus.com

columbus taxiservice.com

Central Ohio's major highways include U.S. Interstate 70, which runs east-west through the entire Region; U.S. Interstate 71, which runs from the southwest corner to the northeast corner; U.S. Interstate 270, which encircles the Greater Columbus area; U.S. Route 33, which runs from the northwest corner to the southeast corner; and U.S. Route 23, which runs north-south through the entire Region. In Columbus, State Route 315 runs west of and parallel to 71 and 23, and Interstate 670 cuts through the downtown area.

Uber and Lyft both operate throughout the Region; visit their respective websites for a coverage area map.

Columbus also has numerous taxi companies; two of the most well-known ones are Yellow Cab of Columbus (614-444-4444) and Columbus Taxi Service (614-262-4444).





# BUSINESS IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

02.

“THE CITY AND REGION ARE ALL-IN ON THE FUTURE. THE NEWS I READ AND CONVERSATIONS I HAVE ALL POINT TO THE REGION BRINGING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE SO THAT ALL CAN PARTICIPATE IN ITS GROWTH AND SUCCESS. I RECOGNIZE THAT ISN'T SIMPLE OR EASY, BUT THE MINDSET AND MISSION ARE CLEARLY THERE.”

**MAC JOSEPH**

Paul Werth Associates | Senior Vice President

*Moved here in 2016 from Chatham, New Jersey*

## COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

IN THIS SECTION

- 24 Business by the Numbers
- 25 Top Employers
- 26 Leading the Way
- 28 The Great Expansion
- 30 Tech Boomtown

# BUSINESS BY THE NUMBERS

The 11 counties of the Columbus Region are economically diverse and ever-growing. The noteworthy business data and attributes of the Region could fill a book; here are some key points to know.



88.9

**COST OF LIVING  
IN COLUMBUS**

The U.S. base cost of living is 100, meaning Columbus' cost of living is more affordable than the national average. It's lower than other nearby metro areas, too, with Pittsburgh at 100.8 and Chicago at 118.2.

*Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, 2022 Q2*

\$20

**BILLION  
INVESTMENT**

From Intel, which is building two semiconductor chip factories in the Region



275+

**internationally owned companies  
with investment in the Region**



350+ **FACILITIES**

100

**JAPANESE-OWNED  
COMPANIES**

Canada, Germany  
and the United  
Kingdom each have

25+

**COMPANIES**



France, Italy and Switzerland also have a significant presence in the Region

16

**Fortune 1000 companies  
headquartered in the  
Columbus Region**

2022 RANK	COMPANY NAME	# EMPLOYEES IN REGION
15	Cardinal Health	8,660
80	Nationwide	17,340
219	American Electric Power	4,500
435	Bath & Body Works	3,100
480	Victoria's Secret	4,500
515	Big Lots	1,450
521	Huntington	5,740
561	Greif	384
607	Vertiv	1,200
616	ScottsMiracle-Gro	1,340
670	Bread Financial	3,086
722	M/I Homes	295
724	Mettler Toledo	800
725	Abercrombie & Fitch	2,200
803	Designer Brands	1,000
806	Worthington Industries	1,884



700+

**economic base company  
expansions and new locations  
since 2011**

*(as tracked via involvement with One Columbus  
and local economic development organizations)*

Economic base industries export goods or services out of the Columbus Region, thereby bringing wealth in from outside sources. As an example, a headquarters operation or manufacturing facility generates wealth for the local economy by serving businesses or consumers in external markets, as opposed to a grocery store or medical facility that primarily sells goods or services to its local market.

# TOP EMPLOYERS



## PRIVATE SECTOR

## PUBLIC SECTOR

### 1. OhioHealth

Hospitals and healthcare services  
[ohiohealth.com](http://ohiohealth.com)

Employees: 24,512

### 2. JPMorgan Chase

Financial services  
[jpmorganchase.com](http://jpmorganchase.com)

Employees: 17,480

### 3. Nationwide

Insurance and financial services  
[nationwide.com](http://nationwide.com)

Employees: 17,340

### 4. Amazon/AWS

E-commerce and  
cloud computing services  
[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) / [aws.amazon.com](http://aws.amazon.com)

Employees: 9,292

### 5. Mount Carmel Health System

Hospitals and healthcare services  
[mountcarmelhealth.com](http://mountcarmelhealth.com)

Employees: 8,182

### 6. Honda North America Inc.

Automotive manufacturing  
and research & development  
[ohio.honda.com](http://ohio.honda.com)

Employees: 6,923

### 7. Huntington Bancshares Inc.

Financial services  
[huntington.com](http://huntington.com)

Employees: 5,741

### 8. Cardinal Health Inc.

Healthcare services  
[cardinalhealth.com](http://cardinalhealth.com)

Employees: 8,660

### 9. Victoria's Secret & Co.

Specialty retail  
[victoriasssecretandco.com](http://victoriasssecretandco.com)

Employees: 4,500

### 10. Bath & Body Works

Specialty retail  
[bbwinc.com](http://bbwinc.com)

Employees: 3,655

### 1. Ohio State University

Higher education  
[osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

Employees: 37,339

### 2. State of Ohio

Government  
[ohio.gov](http://ohio.gov)

Employees: 24,897

### 3. City of Columbus

Government  
[columbus.gov](http://columbus.gov)

Employees: 8,705

### 4. Franklin County

Government  
[franklincountyohio.gov](http://franklincountyohio.gov)

Employees: 6,150

### 5. South-Western City Schools

School district  
[swcsd.us](http://swcsd.us)

Employees: 2,804

### 6. Columbus State Community College

Higher education  
[csc.edu](http://csc.edu)

Employees: 2,377

### 7. Dublin City Schools

School district  
[dublinschools.net](http://dublinschools.net)

Employees: 2,200

### 8. Westerville City Schools

School district  
[westerville.k12.oh.us](http://westerville.k12.oh.us)

Employees: 1,846

### 9. Worthington Schools

School district  
[worthington.k12.oh.us](http://worthington.k12.oh.us)

Employees: 1,500

### 10. Delaware County

Government  
[co.delaware.oh.us](http://co.delaware.oh.us)

Employees: 1,373

Source: One Columbus

Image credit: courtesy of OhioHealth

Source: Columbus Business First Book of Lists, 2021-22



*A concert at the Columbus Commons park in downtown Columbus*

# LEADING THE WAY

The Columbus Way clears a path to tackle economic and social issues.

Promoters of metro areas seeking to attract new jobs and residents while solving critical community issues often start with new slogans or logos to begin presenting a consistent message in marketing efforts. Those campaigns often falter when the various private-, public- and nonprofit-sector stakeholders fail to pull together in telling their region's story through actions backing the words.

Not so in Columbus and the greater Columbus Region, where public- and private-sector leaders frequently join forces for the greater good of the community. Together, they've recognized that their collective values and principles guide not just how the Columbus Region shows itself off to others, but also how corporate and civic leaders interact with one another while attracting new opportunities. Together, these values and principles embody the Columbus Way. (See "The Columbus Way," next page.)

"This is one of our most distinct assets: that spirit of teamwork throughout the city and the Region," says Columbus Mayor Andy Ginther. "It's more than downtown and Scioto riverfront revitalization. It's also about Smart Columbus on transportation issues, the [Carmenton] innovation district tech park at Ohio State, affordable housing as a workforce issue, the saving of the Columbus Crew [soccer franchise], healthcare and education."

Ginther says he sought to show his commitment to the Columbus Way soon after election to his first term, when he traveled to suburban city halls rather than inviting those communities' leaders downtown to his office. "It was to send a clear message [that] we were going to act as part of a region."

This era of cooperation and collaboration was stewarded in part by a handful of top business execs who gathered two decades ago to form the



*Pelotonia brings together individuals and businesses to raise funds for cancer research.*

Columbus Partnership, with a focus on leaning in to collaboration while thinking and acting regionally. That shift in thinking became a sea change that led to a string of big community, economic development and project wins, capped in 2022 by the landing of the Intel Corp. microchip factory campus in New Albany.

Don DePerro, the CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, says the Columbus Way motivated his organization to step up assistance to Black-owned businesses with its Urban Business Connection, which offers enhanced memberships, event tickets and opportunities for consultations and networking. “What we’re doing is providing platforms,” says DePerro.

He tells the story of one encounter that allowed a former Worthington Schools teacher, Douglas Buckley, to launch a business importing coffee beans from Tanzania in East Africa, where he had served as a long-term missionary before returning to Central Ohio. Greg Ubert, CEO of local coffee roaster Crimson Cup, connected Buckley with an investor to launch Black Kahawa Coffee; Crimson Cup also bought a portion of the first batch of green beans for its own roasting and distribution business, as Buckley seeks to sell to other small-batch roasters across the Midwest. “It’s all about making connections through the program,” DePerro says.

“The Columbus Way” moniker emerged in the wake of a Harvard Business School case-study class in the late 2010s that examined the deep level of regional thinking within the counties that make

**“THERE IS CONTINUOUS COLLABORATION TO MAKE COLUMBUS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY—NOT JUST FOR SOME OR MOST, BUT FOR ALL. FROM SOCIAL IMPACT TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, FROM JOB CREATION TO EDUCATION; THE CITY’S COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE GIVES A TRUE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY.”**



**MALLORY DONALDSON**

The Center for Healthy Families | Chief Program Officer of Advocacy, Public Policy and Information  
Moved here in 2009 from Houston, Texas

up the city’s metropolitan statistical area. The phrase, by that time, had already become an organic way regional stakeholders referred to the area’s collaborative spirit.

It goes beyond mere private-public partnerships, says Columbus Partnership COO Irene Alvarez. “What underpins the Columbus Way is this shared set of values,” she explains. “What sets Columbus leaders apart isn’t just that we work together; it’s how we work together. It’s about the beliefs we share and act upon.”

The tagline and related value statements have caught on, both in economic development and in social and cultural senses—shown with the widespread support for the Pelotonia cancer fundraiser for Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center, which culminates each summer in a three-day bicycle fundraising event, and the vocal fans during the #SaveTheCrew campaign to keep the Major League Soccer team in Columbus. But it’s in the economic development arena where the Columbus Way has shown its power to lift up the fortunes of the Region as a whole. “It isn’t just rhetoric; the Columbus Way really works,” says DePerro. “Every project helps the Region, and there’s enough to go around.”



*Bicentennial Fountain at the Scioto Mile*

## The Columbus Way

At its core, the Columbus Way is anchored by a set of values and principles that power progress:

### VALUES

- **Ambition:** The drive to reach new heights and never sit still.
- **Inclusivity:** The recognition that leaders and change agents spring from everywhere.
- **Collaboration:** Harnessing the power of hearts and minds that are united by a shared vision.
- **Common Good:** A commitment to service that elevates all.
- **Fellowship:** Our unique type of togetherness that powers progress.

### PRINCIPLES

- **Accountability:** Mutual accountability leads openness, communication and transparency.
- **Respect:** Respecting each other and the common good make us better caretakers of the community.
- **Integrity:** Dedication to honesty and acting with a sense of right and wrong builds community confidence.
- **Trust:** Counting on each other builds a sense of certainty and commitment.

# THE GREAT EXPANSION

Central Ohio businesses are expanding inside a flourishing ecosystem that drives and supports growth across all sectors.

**E**conomic growth in the Columbus Region isn't just about attracting new business. It's also helping existing companies continue to grow.

Timothy J. Miller, Ph.D., president and co-founder of Forge Biologics, says the Columbus Region boasts many assets that propel the kind of expansion his company has experienced, including a talented workforce and exemplary academic, health and science centers—along with strong public-private partnerships.

"We have one of the youngest, most well-educated populations, anchored by Ohio State [University] and Nationwide Children's Hospital," Miller says. Innovative investors like Drive Capital, which helped finance Forge from the outset, also shape a robust environment. "They all make up a recipe for success."

Headquartered in Grove City, Forge is a hybrid contract manufacturing and development company that aims to accelerate gene therapy programs from preclinical through clinical and commercial stage manufacturing. Its focus is on viral vectors used in genetic therapy for people, including children, with rare diseases.

Just two years since its inception, Forge has raised more than \$240 million in financing, including a \$40 million Series A financing in 2020 and a \$120 million Series B round in 2021.

"I didn't anticipate raising Series A and B financing during a pandemic," Miller says. Nevertheless, the company also grew to 240 employees and is on track to grow to 400 with help from a JobsOhio development grant facilitated by economic development organization One Columbus.

Forge is but one example of companies that chose to locate or expand in the Columbus Region in recent years, says Justin Bickle, managing director of client services and project management at One Columbus.

Bickle says One Columbus works to understand competing markets and present compelling cases for doing business here,



**"WE WERE STRUCK BY HOW MUCH ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM COLUMBUS HAD FOR NEW BUSINESSES AND NEW IDEAS."**

**LAUREN CULLEY AND JEFF EXCELL**

*Fox in the Snow Café | Owners*

*Moved here in 2014 from Brooklyn, New York*

helping make the necessary connections to support workforce development, academic affiliations, incentives, funding and community engagement. He adds that retaining successful businesses is just as important as attracting them.

For Quantum Health founder Kara Trott, Central Ohio was the obvious choice when she started the first healthcare navigation and care coordination company, now one of the largest in the nation. "Central Ohio is my home," says Trott, who founded Quantum Health because she saw a need for a more consumer-centric healthcare experience.

Others saw it, too, as evidenced by annual revenue growth rate of 25 percent and an expanding clientele base. Quantum is one of the 450 largest companies in the country and has more than 1,800 employees—a number is expected to grow to 2,000 next year, according to Trott.

When the company outgrew its Westerville headquarters in 2019, its leaders conducted a nationwide search before deciding to locate in Dublin, where it renovated a building formerly used

**“THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT FOCUS ON EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND NEW IDEAS [IN COLUMBUS]. IT’S A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING CITY.”**

**SUDARSHAN PYAKRUEL**

*Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio | Executive Director*

*Moved here in 2014 from Nepal via Cleveland, Ohio*

by Ashland Chemical. Quantum purchased a second building as expansion continued.

“We like this campus environment,” Trott says, adding that incentives from the city of Dublin attracted her to the suburban community. The Quantum campus on Blazer Parkway currently has room for the new surge of employees expected in the coming months, she says.

Quantum, which had 650,000 members in 2017, now has more than 2 million and is climbing toward 2.5 million, Trott says. Its clientele is composed primarily of self-insured companies with between 5,000 and 25,000 employees, and in some cases many more, Trott says. “We cover 65 to 70 percent of all people who get benefits from employer-sponsored health plans.”

In the Columbus Region, growth begets growth, she says. The arrival of Intel, for example, will catalyze employment growth as new employees bring family members who also will join the local workforce talent pool. Bickle says the semiconductor industry is one of several rapidly growing sectors, including life sciences and automotive (think: electric vehicles) that will build on existing synergies and add depth to the Region’s ecosystem.

“The life sciences sector has exploded in the last four to five years. We are involved in the development of an ecosystem around the drive to capitalize,” Bickle says. As home to world-class researchers, leading-edge biotechnology facilities and a growing investor base, the Region is creating a hub for excellence in biotech therapies.

The potential for a formidable commercial-life science alliance is evidenced by the billions of dollars’ worth of investments being made here, he says, citing Andelyn Biosciences, an affiliate of Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Andelyn, another contract manufacturing organization involved in viral vector production, broke ground earlier this year on a 185,000-square-foot facility in Columbus’ Innovation District, supported by a \$5 million JobsOhio Research and Development Center grant. Andelyn also has received a significant private-sector investment.

Andelyn Biosciences was born out of groundbreaking work at Nationwide Children’s, where the first FDA-approved systemic gene therapy was developed. Andelyn combines the names Andrew and Evelyn, who were among the first children to receive experimental gene therapy there several years ago.



*Forge Biologics is but one example of companies that chose to locate or expand in the Columbus Region in recent years.*

Erandi De Silva, Forge Biologics co-founder and senior vice president of product development, says the Region is rapidly becoming an epicenter for gene therapy and other biotech endeavors.

In addition to its own small clinical pipeline, Forge works with dozens of outside clients to accelerate the development and manufacture of viral vectors, and its 200,000-square-foot headquarters houses some of the world’s largest bioreactors. Forge is poised to become the largest dedicated adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector manufacturer in the world in the next few years, company leaders say.

“We’ve heard from many investors that this really is a big feather in Ohio’s cap,” De Silva says.

De Silva says Forge looked at 25 to 30 other sites before deciding to locate in Grove City. “They’ve been fantastic partners, from the mayor to the development department,” she says. Other assets included reasonably priced housing, proximity to the airport and building infrastructure. “They checked a lot of boxes for us and offered us an opportunity to grow.”

*A version of this story by Laurie Allen first appeared in the Fall 2022 edition of Columbus CEO magazine.*

*Image credit: Courtney Hergesheimer*

# TECH BOOMTOWN

Central Ohio continues  
its journey to become the  
Silicon Heartland.

**"COLUMBUS IS A PHENOMENAL PLACE, AND I  
BELIEVE IT WILL DRIVE INNOVATION ACROSS  
THE MIDWEST AND THE COUNTRY OVER THE  
NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND."**

**DOUG ULMAN**  
Pelotonia | CEO

*Moved here in 2014 from Austin, Texas*

**T**he late January 2022 reveal that semiconductor manufacturer Intel Corp. would invest an initial \$20 billion in a microchip fabrication complex in western Licking County marked the culmination of an eight-month marathon among 40 states hoping to land the facility and its promises of economic prosperity.

But in truth, the Columbus Region had already established itself as Ohio's premier tech hub in 2014, when Amazon Web Services staked out land in Hilliard and Dublin and, a year later, in New Albany, as sites for data farms.

"AWS put us on the map, especially with the Fortune 100 and 500 companies" says Matt McQuade, managing director of business development for economic development organization One Columbus. "Their choice to locate in our market and invest \$1 billion sent a signal that something was happening here."

Indeed, Google and Facebook parent company Meta soon decided to set up large-scale data center campuses within New Albany International Business Park, the eastern extension of which will serve as fertile ground for Intel's forthcoming complex. Google has since expanded its operations to other sections of the Columbus Region. If AWS put the Columbus Region on the national map, "Intel puts us on the globe," McQuade says. "The computer chip is the most coveted technology out there."



*A rendering of one of the planned Intel facilities*

Ohio and the Columbus Region's strong network of universities and community colleges played a leading role in Intel's decision to locate here, as it has in other industries, like life sciences. Geographically, the Intel site provides access to heavy and reliable power, water and isolation from the nation's major natural disaster risks.

Intel expects to begin with two microchip fabricating facilities set for operation in 2025, when it puts the first of 3,000 engineers, technicians and support staff to work. Intel expects to build at least two more chip production factories on the site as global microprocessor demand grows.

Other manufacturers in recent years have also recognized that underlying industrial and technological base. For instance, Hyperion Motors Inc. has reestablished its fuel cell research and development operations in the Region within the former Dispatch Printing Co. production facility in southwest Columbus as it gears up production of fuel cell membranes. Those membranes are used to build electricity storage packets for vehicles, including its own XP-1 sports car prototype.

While the company has its 2011 roots and much of its initial funding in Ohio and Columbus, it had relocated to California for several years before coming back. "California's not ideal for manufacturing without a lot of government support," says Angelo Kafantaris, the company's co-founder and CEO. In addition to a state and local government welcoming to manufacturers, proximity of Hyperion suppliers and Ohio State University's Center



*Battelle*

for Transportation Research helped Kafantaris and his team decide to invest \$300 million in the north Columbus facility, which lays out well for the production of its membranes. "When you put it together, no other state offered these factors," he says.

Lou Von Thae, the CEO of Battelle, the world's largest independent research and development organization, says the surge of homegrown technology companies and transplant operations not only taps the base of educated workers, but has encouraged many of those attending college in the Region to stay in this market after graduation rather than seeking their dream jobs in East or West Coast tech meccas. In the past, "we didn't have the talent to scale

research” into companies, Von Thaer says. Tech as a business sector in the Region “has just taken off.”

Battelle, founded in Columbus more than 90 years ago, in 2021 spun off its biotech contract research division, now called AmplifyBio, to advance cell and gene therapy research. It also has designs on the bio-remediation sector as a source for potential spinoffs, such as its Boston-based Allonia joint venture with other tech investors that launched in 2020. “We’re starting to see spinoffs from here every two years,” Von Thaer says. “We’re trying to solve big problems in the world.”

Columbus has long had a solid base of software talent and innovation, due in large part to the strength of financial giants such as Nationwide Insurance, multi-regional financial services company Huntington Bancshares and the back-office operations of top-tier national lender Chase Bank, which acquired the former Bank One operation in 2004. That energy has expanded into enterprise software in the medical field, such as CoverMyMeds, headquartered just south of downtown Columbus, which creates prescription coverage authorization systems for pharmacies.

“We have a long technology story,” McQuade says, noting the backroom corporate IT departments that attracted third-party vendors and whose employees might start a small business based on their own idea for an application. “Industries are getting disrupted from Columbus all the time,” McQuade says.

Some of that disruption comes from the venture capital funding and business support provided through Rev1 Ventures and other VC funds rising in Columbus. That has served as a financial pillar for the Columbus Region’s emergence as a tech hub.

“We’ve made great strides in [creating] density of high-growth firms that can scale, especially in the areas of enterprise software and life sciences,” says Kristy Campbell, COO of the nonprofit tech organization that supports small and emerging companies through provision of low-cost business services and development-stage tech businesses.

She expects the growing base of venture capitalists willing to take the risk of mid-stage startups to continue propelling innovation that is often created by those leaving large and mid-sized companies with a mindset to develop an idea into a business.



*The September 2022 groundbreaking of Intel’s new facility.*

**“BUSINESS AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES ARE ALL OVER THIS CITY. [THE] PROCESS OF MOVING HERE WAS EASY.”**

**DANIEL AYARS**

NBBJ | Principal

*Moved here in 2015 from Shanghai, China*

“There is more capital than ever before ... there’s been more capital invested and a number of new funds.”

Intel will continue to grab the Region’s attention as its broad base of suppliers follow the tech giant to the area. Ohio already has a fraction of those—about 140—with operations here. “With Intel, we’ll see a ripple effect,” says Dave Brewster, technology director for the nonprofit JobsOhio economic development organization. “The New Albany fabrication facilities will cause Intel to bring with them their massive supply chain, prompting even more growth.”

McQuade agrees that, while Intel has become the crown jewel of Central Ohio as a tech center, the Columbus Region still has much more to offer those businesses—and entrepreneurs with a kernel of an idea—wishing to tap the Region’s cutting-edge technology resources and infrastructure. One Columbus, JobsOhio and the local business and civic sectors will stay on the hunt. “We’re still looking,” McQuade says, “for other opportunities.”

*Image credits: Intel, Adam Cairns; Boyle, courtesy of Molly Kocour Boyle*

**MOLLY  
KOCOUR BOYLE**  
President  
AT&T Ohio



My job as president of AT&T Ohio brought me to Columbus from Kansas City in February 2022. We settled in Upper Arlington, and what we love both about Upper Arlington and Columbus is how community-focused everyone is. There’s a real desire to make the town a great place to live, work and play. I love how open, friendly and welcoming it is.

Before being named to the role of president of AT&T Ohio, I didn’t have much of a perception of Columbus, other than Ohio State and football. Now my impression of Columbus is that it’s so much more than that. The diversity and the growth that’s going to happen as part of Intel and other economic development efforts—it just feels like the city is going to grow exponentially. It feels like we’re at the tipping point of the next chapter for Columbus, and that’s a great place to be.

*As told to Mandy Shunnarah*

# LIFESTYLE IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

## 03.

“IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CERTAIN LIFESTYLE, THE COLUMBUS REGION HAS IT—TAKE YOUR TIME AND INVESTIGATE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE LONG-TERM. COLUMBUS IS NOT GENERIC AND HAS A COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE.”

**KENNY MCDONALD**

Columbus Partnership | President and CEO

*Moved here in 2010 from Charlotte, North Carolina*

### COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

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Cities in the Region

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Neighborhoods  
in Columbus

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Downtown Columbus

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# FINDING YOUR PLACE

Whether you prefer city, suburban or small-town settings, Central Ohio has a spot for you.

If downtown living isn't your vibe, no worries. The Columbus Region has plenty of options, from trendy walkable neighborhoods to charming rural towns. Here's an alphabetical snapshot of 28 notable communities around Central Ohio—one of which is apt to feel just like home to you.

*All population data provided by One Columbus using U.S. Census annual estimates*

## BELLEFONTAINE

★ **FOUNDED** 1819 |  **POPULATION** 14,076

 **COUNTY** Logan

Named after the French word for “beautiful spring,” this city located about an hour northwest of Columbus lives up to its moniker. But don't think “French” when saying the name, which many visitors get wrong; it's pronounced “bell-fountain.” Bellefontaine is home to more than 700 acres of community parks, including a 450-acre nature preserve, offering residents a chance to swim, fish, hike and even play disc golf close to home.

The Logan County Courthouse, originally built in 1870, is a towering centerpiece in the revitalized downtown, which features coffee shops, boutiques and loft-style living spaces among more historic offerings. Author Norman Vincent Peale once called Bellefontaine home, as did Chief Blue Jacket of the Shawnee tribe and, more recently, Olympic and X-Games snowboarder Louie Vito.

Skillfully pairing old with new, Bellefontaine is as proud of its historic 1931 Holland Theatre as it is of the Brewfontaine craft brewery, voted the No. 1 Beer Bar in Ohio four years in a row by craftbeer.com.

## BEXLEY

★ **FOUNDED** 1908 |  **POPULATION** 13,681 |  **COUNTY** Franklin

A historic and close-knit neighborhood just 3 miles east of downtown Columbus, Bexley is a pleasant mix of suburban and urban living with a vibrant Jewish community.

Quiet, tree-lined streets and carefully manicured parks surround residents' stately homes and mansions. Notably, the city itself was accredited as an arboretum in 2013; it's the nation's first city to earn the designation. In fact, its 14,000 street trees outnumber its residents. The walkable downtown features culinary treasures as well as art galleries, coffee shops and the iconic, art deco Drexel Theatre, a longtime champion of independent and foreign films.

Educational offerings also abound in Bexley, with a top-ranked public school system, two private college-prep day schools and the 54-acre, 3,300-student Capital University all adding a fun, youthful vibe to the area.



CAPITAL UNIVERSITY, BEXLEY

## CANAL WINCHESTER

★ **FOUNDED**  
1828👤 **POPULATION**  
9,514📍 **COUNTIES** Fairfield  
and Franklin

Canal Winchester was the second-fastest-growing community in Central Ohio during the last five years that U.S. Census estimates were available (2016 to 2021), with a 19.2 percent population jump. This formerly rural suburb just 15 minutes southeast of downtown Columbus is home to two rapidly expanding industrial parks, a medical campus, an abundance of retailers and restaurants, a sea of newer residential developments and a thriving historic downtown. Scottish craft brewer BrewDog even selected Canal Winchester as its U.S. headquarters in 2017. Its campus includes brewing facilities, a taproom, a craft beer museum and “the world’s first craft beer hotel.”

Community traditions include the city’s annual Labor Day Festival with three days of live music, a car show, farmers market and ice cream social, as well as a spring Art Stroll and a summer Blues & Ribfest. The National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame adds some lingering small-town quirk to this ever-evolving city. Yet Canal’s rural charm is reflected in its 300-plus acres of public parklands, two wineries and the last remaining covered bridge in Franklin County.



CIRCLEVILLE PUMPKIN SHOW

## CIRCLEVILLE

★ **FOUNDED**  
1810👤 **POPULATION**  
14,106📍 **COUNTY** Pickaway

One of the nation’s oldest festivals, the Circleville Pumpkin Show, is this city’s claim to fame. More than 400,000 residents and visitors flock to the downtown area, 30 miles south of Columbus, each October to sample various pumpkin-infused foods, watch pumpkin carving demonstrations and view the impossibly huge home-grown pumpkins—some weighing in at over 1,800 pounds! The city is also home to six parks, a well-loved community theater and Ohio Christian University’s 40-acre campus.

Circleville derives its name from the original city plan to plot all downtown streets in concentric circles with an octagonal county courthouse at its center. Although the city’s downtown was “squared up” in the 1840s, the nickname “Roundtown” remains.

*Image credit: pumpkin, Gaelen Morse; Chen, Tim Johnson*

## COLUMBUS

★ **FOUNDED**  
1812👤 **POPULATION**  
906,528📍 **COUNTY** Franklin

Not only is Columbus the capital of Ohio, it is home to the sprawling Ohio State University and several U.S. corporate headquarters, including Nationwide and American Electric Power.

Sports abound in the city, with three professional teams drawing fans to the Arena District.

This sprawling metropolis, centered near the confluence of the Olentangy and Scioto rivers, is known for its abundance of pocket neighborhoods, each sporting their own distinctive vibe to create a city with many personalities. For more on Columbus’ distinct neighborhoods, see page 44.



**“COLUMBUS IS TRULY DIVERSE IN ITS OFFERINGS: A STRONG CULTURAL COMMUNITY, INSPIRING NONPROFITS DOING TREMENDOUS WORK, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS AND A VERY ROBUST STUDENT BASE. I THINK THAT’S A UNIQUE BLEND.”**

**JANET CHEN**  
ProMusica Chamber Orchestra | CEO

*Moved here in 2003 from Taipei City, Taiwan, via Cleveland, Ohio*

DELAWARE

★ **FOUNDED** 1808    👤 **POPULATION** 42,814

📍 **COUNTY** Delaware

Americana charm defines this growing city, located 30 miles north of downtown Columbus. Known equally well for its annual harness horse-racing event, the Little Brown Jug, that headlines a weeklong county fair as it is for outdoor recreation with two state parks nearby, this county seat skillfully blends hometown tradition with modern adventure.

The campus of Ohio Wesleyan University anchors the southeast edge of the city, while dozens of small eateries, shops and at least four brewhouses dot the main drag. The landmark Strand Theatre has drawn moviegoers for more than 100 years, while themed First Friday events and farmers markets bring families and couples downtown.



THE PGA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, DUBLIN

DUBLIN

★ **FOUNDED** 1802    👤 **POPULATION** 49,085

📍 **COUNTIES** Franklin, Delaware and Union

The PGA Tour’s annual Memorial Tournament may have put Dublin on the map in 1976, but hosting one of the largest Irish festivals in the world has kept the city there. Now, a lively new district called Bridge Park, connected to the historic downtown by an architecturally stunning pedestrian bridge, is building upon the city’s two signature events to make this evolving northwest suburb even more of a destination.

Dublin is known for its green space, with 60 parks and more than 100 miles of multiuse paths. Gorgeous neighborhoods, excellent schools and a thriving, historic downtown that includes a state-of-the-art library and several brew pubs and eateries continue to make this suburb attractive. In addition, several large businesses—including Cardinal Health, The Wendy’s Co. and IGS Energy—are headquartered in Dublin.

CREEKSIDE PARK AND PLAZA, GAHANNA



GAHANNA

★ **FOUNDED** 1849    👤 **POPULATION** 35,440

📍 **COUNTY** Franklin

Located adjacent to John Glenn International Airport and with easy highway access to downtown Columbus and nearby suburbs, Gahanna is a popular bedroom community with a safe, family-friendly atmosphere.

The city has more than 750 acres of parkland, plus a state nature preserve. Creekside Park is the centerpiece of Olde Gahanna with waterfalls, walkways, paddleboat/kayak rentals and nearly a dozen restaurants near the banks and tributaries of Big Walnut Creek. This park connects to Creekside Plaza, site of the city’s annual Blues & Jazz Festival and Herb Day celebrations. Residents and visitors can sip seasonal herb-infused libations served by several Gahanna establishments along the city’s Herbal Cocktail Trail, another claim to fame for this Herb Capital of Ohio.

Image credits: Memorial, Adam Cairns; Gahanna, Rob Hardin

## GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS

 **FOUNDED** 1906  **POPULATION** 8,253

 **COUNTY** Franklin

Situated between downtown Columbus and the Ohio State University campus, Grandview Heights' unique flavor makes it a destination spot, while remaining a popular locale for young professionals and those looking to raise a family alike.

Tree-lined old neighborhoods and a charming local library reside just off the two main streets, where independent shops, breweries, restaurants, a coffee roaster and a single-screen retro theater all thrive. Along the city's eastern edge sits Grandview Yard, with restaurant, retail and office spaces, urban-style living options and a fitness complex.

## GRANVILLE

 **FOUNDED** 1805  **POPULATION** 5,709

 **COUNTY** Licking

A quaint, New England-style community about 35 miles east of Columbus, Granville is known for its distinctive architecture and small-town charm.

A surprisingly large assortment of specialty shops, dining options, historic inns and bed-and-breakfasts line the main street, while Bryn Du Mansion, overlooking a 52-acre estate on the east side of town, hosts summer polo matches and the annual Taste of Granville event. A 14-mile bike trail runs through the village, and four golf courses are within a 10-mile drive. Granville is also home to Denison University, a small, residential, liberal arts college.

**"THERE IS SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT COLUMBUS; IT'S A CITY WITH A HOMETOWN FEEL. I'M A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, FIRST-GENERATION IMMIGRANT, LATINA, NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKER AND ORIGINALLY FROM VENEZUELA, AND I STILL FELT LIKE THIS WAS HOME."**

**VIRGINIA NUNES GUTIERREZ** EuroAquaponics, Co-Founder | Avanza Together, Executive Director  
*Moved here in 2011 from Venezuela*

## GROVE CITY

 **FOUNDED** 1852  **POPULATION** 41,787

 **COUNTY** Franklin

Grove City could be nicknamed "Growth City" due to the dramatic rise in population and development projects in this once-rural community. Named for the trees that remained after the area was cleared in the 1800s, this once-woody area southwest of Columbus is now home to luxury condos, villas, mixed-use neighborhoods and plenty of new commercial construction. The town center is sprinkled with unique shops, art spaces, a community theater, a combo brewery/winery and an array of eateries, some of which are featured on the self-guided Grove City Pizza Trek.

One of the city's gems—besides its 1,000 acres of parkland—is its large, modern library, which was rebuilt and expanded to double its previous size in 2016 in the Grove City Town Center.



GROVE CITY LIBRARY

## GROVEPORT

 **FOUNDED** 1846  **POPULATION** 5,910  **COUNTY** Franklin

Famed "horse whisperer" John Rarey hails from this small town south of Columbus, where his brother William was one of the founding fathers. A Tree City USA community for more than 25 years, Groveport has been working to attract more businesses to its downtown, which is currently a mix of quaint residences, offices and retail establishments. Its annual Apple Butter Day Festival, which includes live bluegrass music, is dedicated to preserving the city's early pioneer heritage, as is a museum inside Town Hall. Groveport also is home to an art gallery, nature center, community garden, nine parks, several miles of multiuse paths, an aquatic center, a rec center and a city-run 18-hole golf course.



HILLIARD'S STATION PARK

HILLIARD

**FOUNDED**  
1853

**POPULATION**  
36,892

**COUNTY**

Franklin

Hilliard is a sprawling, continually growing suburb offering a little bit of everything. While its population has jumped more than 30 percent since 2010, stretches of farmland still separate many of the newer housing developments and the city's three high schools, while urban-style apartments are starting to pop up here and there. Historic Old Hilliard continues to be the anchor of this community, with a mix of longtime shops and restaurants, along with newer additions such as the Center Street Market, featuring food and retail vendors and anchor business, Crooked Can Brewery. Hilliard's Station Park, one of 25 parks in the city, abuts this active retail area and includes a splashpad for kids, live music in the summer and a trailhead for the 7-mile Heritage Trail multiuse path.

Other notable additions to this former railroad town include a massive, domed indoor sports training facility owned by former professional two-sport athlete Bo Jackson, a sleek new branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and a popular e-sports and gaming arena.

LANCASTER

**FOUNDED**  
1800

**POPULATION**  
40,763

**COUNTY**

Fairfield

About 30 miles southeast of Columbus, not far from the Hocking River and the rolling southern Ohio hills, lies the city of Lancaster. This town, named by German settlers from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the birthplace of Civil War Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and home to three Ohio governors. It's a rich agricultural region, with plenty of farmland, municipal parks and a close-knit downtown that includes a community theater and more than 30 retail shops. The city is also the site of the longest-running fair in Ohio and Lancaster Festival, an annual, 10-day music festival that draws an estimated 40,000 attendees.

LONDON

**FOUNDED**  
1811

**POPULATION**  
10,514

**COUNTY**

Madison

Just 25 miles southwest of Columbus is the Madison County seat of London. This small, rural town with a classic clock tower at its center has focused in recent years on community reinvestment and economic development, yielding new residential offerings as well as an expanded hospital system, which—thanks to its partnership with Ohio State University—now includes a new cancer center and emergency department. London hosts an annual strawberry festival and a ribs and jazz fest, which includes a classic car show. This quaint city with its 143 acres of parks, including a dog park and skate park, appeals to families looking for a more relaxed pace.



**“WHEN MY HUSBAND AND I MOVED OUT TO COLUMBUS, WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CITY’S YOUTHFUL ENERGY. THE PEOPLE WE MET HERE WERE SMART AND WELCOMING. COLUMBUS WON US OVER WITH ITS MIDWESTERN CHARM AND EAST COAST SENSIBILITY.”**

**BRADY KONYA** Middle West Spirits | Co-Founder | *Moved here in 2008 from Seattle, Washington*

## MARION

★ **FOUNDED**  
1822👤 **POPULATION**  
35,868📍 **COUNTY** Marion

Marion is best known as the home of Warren G. Harding, the nation's 29th president. It also produced a former Miss America winner and the first female U.S. Treasurer, Mary Ellen Withrow. Although the city is proud of its famous citizenry, it doesn't live in the past. In fact, Marion is known for its workforce development focus and has three educational institutions teaching tomorrow's workers: the Marion branch campus of Ohio State University, Marion Technical College and Tri-Rivers Career Center.

When it comes to R&R, the city boasts 19 parks, several walking and biking trails, an aquatic center and nine museums. Downtown Marion is a 2-mile stretch of shops, restaurants and performance venues, including the crown jewel of Main Street: Marion Palace Theatre, which has been continuously operating since 1928. Downtown Marion also hosts the largest popcorn festival in the world each fall, attracting crowds in excess of 250,000.

**"I JUST LOVE THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS THAT REFLECT DIFFERENT CHARACTERS, BECAUSE PEOPLE WANT FLAVOR. THEY WANT TO SEE A REFLECTION OF THEMSELVES, BUT THEY ALSO WANT TO SEE A DIFFERENT REFLECTION WHERE THEY CAN EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT CULTURES."**

**ALEXIA WINFIELD**

JPMorgan Chase | VP Senior Project Manager  
Columbus Book Project | Founder/Creative Director

*Moved here in 2010 from Kissimmee, Florida*



MOUNT GILEAD STATE PARK

## MOUNT GILEAD

★ **FOUNDED**  
1832👤 **POPULATION**  
3,504📍 **COUNTY** Morrow

Take a rural, small town, combine it with a colorful, proud history and you've got the village of Mount Gilead. A white "victory shaft" monument in one of the two public squares is a mark of pride, given to the town by the U.S. government because the citizens of Morrow County bought more World War I bonds per capita than any other county in America.

This county seat, 45 miles north-northeast of Columbus, also hosts the annual Morrow County Fair, featuring outhouse races, a straw-stacking contest, livestock shows, live entertainment and, of course, tractor pulls and monster trucks.

## MARYSVILLE

★ **FOUNDED**  
1819👤 **POPULATION**  
26,223📍 **COUNTY** Union

A pleasant mix of hometown friendliness and suburban excitement, Marysville is a big draw for families, which is fitting considering that the town's founder named the city after his daughter, Mary.

Located about 35 miles northwest of Columbus, this county seat is home to two major manufacturers: Honda of America Manufacturing opened its first U.S. location just outside Marysville in 1979, and ScottsMiracle-Gro has been headquartered there since 1868.

The Historic Uptown district, with its restaurants, parks and iconic Union County Courthouse, hosts several community events each year. Another uptown attraction is the Avalon Theatre, which opened in 1936 and was recently transformed into a cultural arts center. Marysville is also home to five golf courses.


*Image credit: manufacturing, courtesy of Honda*


HONDA MANUFACTURING,  
MARYSVILLE




NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS MAIN CAMPUS

MOUNT VERNON

 **FOUNDED**  
1805


 **POPULATION**  
16,894


 **COUNTY** Knox

In the public square of this town, about 50 miles northeast of Columbus, there stands a Union soldier atop a beaming granite column. This monument honors the city's history in the Civil War and is engraved with the names of the Knox County men and boys who died for the North. It's a patriotic symbol of Mount Vernon, which was named after George Washington's famous plantation.

This city is home to scenic bike paths, historic homes, nine parks and two private colleges. Woodward Opera House—the oldest opera theater of its kind in the country—brings cultural and performing arts to this community. The Science Play-Space Initiative (SPI) Spot science museum and South Main Plaza's charming fountain, with 18 different breeds of sculpted canines spitting water toward a golden bone, are two other fun family attractions.

NEW ALBANY

 **FOUNDED**  
1837


 **POPULATION**  
10,854


 **COUNTIES** Franklin and Licking


Georgian architecture and white horse fencing abound in this picturesque, close-knit, planned community just 15 miles northeast of downtown Columbus. Once a tiny village surrounded by vast farmlands, New Albany has become one of the most prestigious suburbs in Central Ohio with a top-notch public school system, vibrant cultural arts community and choice golf courses.

The community has more than 55 miles of leisure trails, nearly 2,000 acres of parkland, a metro park with horse trails, and is host to the nation's largest walking-only race: the New Albany Walking Classic. The charming downtown Market Square area includes a wellness center, library and ever-expanding repertoire of shops and restaurants. The city also is home to a 5,000-acre international business park.

NEWARK

 **FOUNDED**  
1802

 **POPULATION**  
50,383

 **COUNTY** Licking

Despite being the second-largest city in Central Ohio behind Columbus, Newark maintains its small-town charm rooted in rural traditions.

A historic, Second Empire-style courthouse dating to 1876 anchors the town square; the streets surrounding it offer unique, family-run shops and various community events. The Midland Theatre, built in 1928 but fully restored and updated in 2000, is also a big draw in this county seat tucked between two forks of the Licking River.

Located 25 miles east of Columbus, Newark is home to the largest branch campus of the Ohio State University and the largest set of geometric earthen enclosures in the world. Other community assets include a nearly 2,000-acre arboretum, a state nature preserve, wineries, golf courses, museums and abundant bike trails.



**"I THINK THE EMPHASIS ON SERVICE AND BEING A PART OF THE COMMUNITY IS PHENOMENAL AND SETS COLUMBUS APART FROM A LOT OF PLACES."**

**DOUG ULMAN**  
Pelotonia | CEO  
*Moved here in 2014 from Austin, Texas*



**"I REALLY LOVE MY QUALITY OF LIFE HERE. WHAT I'VE LEARNED COMING FROM NEW YORK CITY AND CHICAGO IS THAT WHEN EVERYONE SAYS COLUMBUS IS A VERY EASY CITY TO LIVE IN, THEY'RE RIGHT. IT'S SO ACCOMMODATING AND EASY AND FRIENDLY, WITH ACCESS TO ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOODS AND CULTURE."**

**EDWAARD LIANG** BalletMet | Artistic Director  
*Moved here in 2013 from New York City*

## PICKERINGTON

★ **FOUNDED** 1815    👤 **POPULATION** 23,971

📍 **COUNTIES** Fairfield and Franklin

Boasting the highest five-year growth rate of all Central Ohio communities at 19.4 percent—and jumping 30.7 percent in population since 2010—Pickerington is clearly on an upswing. Famous for its Motorcycle Hall of Fame and status as the violet capital of Ohio, this suburb embraces its diverse nature. The downtown area, referred to as Olde Pickerington Village, offers historic charm with its unique shops, dining options and handful of seasonal community events.

One of the few cities to still celebrate Arbor Day, this Tree City USA town also has more than 150 acres of parkland, a covered bridge, an adult obstacle course, a community pool and an outdoor amphitheater. Good schools, tree-lined streets and affordable housing options draw residents to this area, which even includes its own community theater, founded by 60 of those residents in 2006.

## POWELL

★ **FOUNDED** 1801    👤 **POPULATION** 14,286

📍 **COUNTY** Delaware

Powell has a small, homespun feel with ever-increasing suburban amenities. Scenic trails connect several of the city's award-winning parks to the historic downtown area, where longtime local artisans and antique shops sit alongside newer gastropubs, restaurants and craft breweries.

Just 14 miles north of downtown Columbus, this city is adjacent to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, regularly tapped as one of the best in the country. Housing options include stately homes close to the main public square, as well as those snugly tucked away into the scenic highlands of the Scioto and Olentangy river valleys.

Two highly rated school systems serve the area, and family-friendly activities abound, including the city's signature event: the Powell Festival, featuring live bands, interactive games and fireworks.

## REYNOLDSBURG

★ **FOUNDED** 1831    👤 **POPULATION** 41,050

📍 **COUNTIES** Fairfield, Franklin and Licking

Affectionately known as the birthplace of the commercial tomato, Reynoldsburg is a city with strong agricultural ties, yet a decidedly urban atmosphere. The city's annual Tomato Festival celebrates the delicious red fruit in all sorts of culinary creations, and the Victorian home where horticulturist Alexander W. Livingston lived while taming and breeding the wild tomato is a historic landmark. Summer concerts and ice cream socials are often hosted on the home's extensive grounds.

Located 12 miles east of downtown Columbus and spread across three counties, Reynoldsburg has its share of green space, including a metro park with a 72-hole golf course, seven city parks, a dedicated senior center and two community gardens.

The Ohio Fire Academy and State Fire Marshal's Office are both located in Reynoldsburg, which has plenty of new development along its main thoroughfare, State Route 256, as well as a charming Olde Reynoldsburg area along East Main Street.



REYNOLDSBURG HISTORY

## UPPER ARLINGTON

★ **FOUNDED**  
1918

👤 **POPULATION**  
36,295

📍 **COUNTY** Franklin

This small, affluent, civic-minded community caught the international spotlight in 1962 when homegrown golfer Jack Nicklaus won his first U.S. Open at the age of 22. His “Golden Bear” nickname matches the Upper Arlington High School mascot, and one of the city’s 23 parks is named after this legendary native son.

The suburb, located just minutes from downtown Columbus and adjacent to the Ohio State University campus, may be landlocked, yet it continues to grow and change. New mixed-use developments and hotel projects are underway, and the city’s highly acclaimed high school was entirely rebuilt in 2021.

The Mallway in Old Arlington is a delightful collection of shops and small businesses located between two of the city’s three library branches, while larger retail areas line Lane Avenue and Tremont Road.

Upper Arlington residents enjoy safe, beautiful neighborhoods, first-rate services and a unique community spirit, perhaps best witnessed during its Independence Day celebration, where myriad high school reunions and family events bring generations flocking back to their hometown.

## WESTERVILLE

★ **FOUNDED**  
1858

👤 **POPULATION**  
38,862

📍 **COUNTIES** Delaware and Franklin

Once the headquarters of the Anti-Saloon League, Westerville now calls itself a city within a park. This suburb 15 miles northeast of Columbus maintains award-winning parks, trails and open spaces, plus a state-of-the-art community center. It also has a 761-acre wooded metro park within its boundaries.

Uptown Westerville, once a stop for stagecoaches and the Underground Railroad, is the heart of the city. Eclectic shops, art galleries and new-generation restaurants are interspersed with 19th century houses along the tree-lined streets. For years, Westerville’s temperance history kept it a “dry” city; voters approved the first liquor license in its Uptown district in 2004. Today, the area has a winery, brewery, several bars and its own DORA, or Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, where visitors can open-carry alcoholic beverages from specific establishments during pre-set hours. (Many Columbus suburbs, and its own Arena District, have DORAs, too.) Community events abound, including some hosted on the campus of Otterbein University, a private liberal arts school that lends a collegiate vibe to the Uptown area.

The city has its own electric company, water plant and abundant housing options, from new builds to historic homes, in everything from walkable urban areas to spacious rural settings.



## WHITEHALL

★ **FOUNDED**  
1947

👤 **POPULATION**  
20,101

📍 **COUNTY** Franklin

Seven miles directly east of downtown Columbus is the suburb of Whitehall. Its colorful history tells of a family farm that housed an inn and tavern serving travelers along the National Road in the 1800s. It was also the site of the nation’s first regional shopping center in 1947.

A lot has changed over the years, but the city’s focus on leveraging opportunities remains. Affordable residential options abound in this diverse community featuring townhouses, single-family homes, apartments, senior living and several new builds on once-vacant lots. Whitehall’s branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library was completely rebuilt and expanded in 2015, and the award-winning Whitehall Community Park YMCA opened in 2019. The city also opened two new community parks in 2021—Kelley Green and Central Bark dog park—bringing its total to seven. Some of these parks include attractive features like a disc golf course, cornhole boards and a splashpad. This suburb continues to draw businesses to its 350-acre Airport South Commerce and Tech Park, and at least five companies have made Whitehall their headquarters.

## WORTHINGTON

 **FOUNDED**  
1803

 **POPULATION**  
14,564

 **COUNTY** Franklin

Worthington, just 10 miles north of downtown Columbus, was one of the Midwest's first planned communities. Its architecture—especially around the Village Green and walkable Old Worthington area—still reflects the New England charm brought here by its founders.

Education also remains a hallmark; the public school system consistently receives high ratings, and the city is home to three library branches and two private schools.

Worthington's strong community spirit can be seen in the bustling, year-round farmers market (held indoors from November to April), annual art festival, Market Day and the variety of seasonal events held in the historic downtown or nearby Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center.

This family-focused city is also home to more than 200 acres of parkland, a large community center, a recently renovated indoor/outdoor pool complex run by a local nonprofit, and a highly active senior center with day trips, classes and a fitness room for those age 55 or older.



OLD WORTHINGTON



## LORRAINE LUTTON

**President and CEO, Mount Carmel Health System**

I moved to Columbus in 2020, and my first impression was that the business community was incredibly welcoming, particularly the leaders of the other health systems. Even though I came during the height of Covid, the entire community was very hospitable—and as someone coming from Charleston, South Carolina, that's saying something.

My husband and I lived in Charleston for three years before coming here, and before that, we were in a 100-year-old home in Tampa for 25 years. We were immediately attracted to German Village—it had a similar feel to where we'd been.

We spent a lot of time outside when we first moved here, and we still do. I love the Metro Parks. It's something Columbus should be very proud of. We can pop over to Scioto Audubon park and then ride up to the Olentangy Trail, or take our bikes to a baseball game.

It was difficult to assess the vibrancy of the community when I first got here. As things opened up, I appreciated the vibrant arts scene, the wonderful music, the sports. We enjoy the Broadway in Columbus series, Picnic with the Pops at Columbus Commons and Red White & Boom.

I think Columbus has a lot to offer, and I'm proud to live here.

*As told to Laurie Allen*

# AROUND TOWN

Each of Columbus' dozens of neighborhoods brings its own unique flavor to the city. Here are some of the most popular, in alphabetical order.

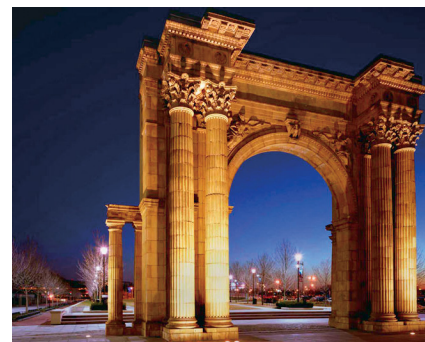
## BEECHWOLD/CLINTONVILLE

This area is beloved by locals who like their neighborhood one part crunchy granola, one part modern urban oasis. Here, you'll find cozy homes and expansive gardens filled by urban homesteaders, artists, young families and professionals, university professors and students. It's the kind of place where you can get your hair cut by an independently owned vegan salon, have one of the best brunches of your life, and make a Target run in a single morning. Whatever your taste, you'll find it here as you peruse the locally owned boutiques, antique shops, cafés and restaurants along High Street before walking through the 13-acre Whetstone Park of Roses, located behind the local library.

## BERWICK/EASTMOOR

Eastmoor, sandwiched between Bexley and Whitehall, was constructed around a polo field in the 1920s and now is recognized by the city of Columbus as a historic neighborhood, while Berwick, southeast of Bexley, was built about 20 years later around a golf course. While neither recreational facility still exists, what has endured and thrived are these racially and religiously diverse communities on Columbus' east side, full of community pride and affordable housing; so much so that both former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman and Buckeye football legend Archie Griffin have called this area home.

WHETSTONE PARK OF ROSES, CLINTONVILLE



## DOWNTOWN/ARENA DISTRICT/ DISCOVERY DISTRICT

After more than a decade of dedicated urban revival projects, it's easy to see why new residents are flocking to downtown: Surrounding the centerpiece of it all—the Ohio Statehouse—are industrial lofts, upscale apartments and charming bungalows, many adjacent to the scenic Columbus Commons park. A wide variety of restaurants are scattered amid state office towers and hubs for major employers.

Flanking downtown to the east is the Discovery District, so named for its numerous institutions for art and learning, including the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus College of Art & Design and the Main Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Downtown's northwest neighbor, the Arena District, hosts NHL brawls, Triple-A baseball games, MLS play at the new Lower.com Field and the hottest national touring acts at several concert venues. Capping off the neighborhood to the north is the historic North Market (read more on page 108).



## SARAH & NICK KARAKAIAN

Co-owners, Nestr

**Nick:** About five years ago, we got an offer on our home in New York City. We wanted to take our profits and buy as much real estate as possible, so we started researching cities on where our dollar could go further and where there was opportunity not just in cash flow, but also in equity. After researching several different cities, we made the decision to come to Columbus.

**Sarah:** I'll never forget, we were getting off the highway coming from Indianapolis—I get coffee seven times a day, so I just Googled “coffee shop” and it brought us to German Village, to Stauf’s Coffee. I couldn’t get over how Columbus really embraces its history. And obviously, as home designers, we really love that.

**Nick:** I just wanted to put roots down in a place where we would have an opportunity to grow our businesses and, obviously, centered around real estate—everything made sense.

*As told to Sarah Steimer*

## FRANKLINTON

Just west of downtown, this neighborhood once decimated by a 1913 flood sat dilapidated and largely empty until about a decade ago, when an influential young arts and entrepreneurial community (and apartment and condo developers) began to breathe new life into its repurposed warehouses. Today, Franklinton is a favorite hip haunt for artists and makers, and home to the top-rated, family favorite science center, COSI (pictured below).



*Image credits: Karakaian, The Makery Co.; museum, courtesy of COSI*

## GERMAN VILLAGE/BREWERY DISTRICT

Immediately south of downtown, settlers put down their roots in the mid-1800s in what became known as German Village and the adjacent Brewery District, so named for pre-Prohibition beer-making establishments that once called it home. German Village is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the meticulously looked-after brick streets and Italianate architecture are lined with well-curated, independent shops and impeccably decorated historic homes with even more charm than Schmidt’s Sausage Haus’ Cream Puffs, if possible. Just to the west, the Brewery District is still going strong with hip cocktail bars and eateries, entertainment options like resident theater troupe Shadowbox Live and boho loft living.

## HILLTOP

West of Franklinton and south of Hilliard, this large neighborhood is backed by an active, 90-year-old business association, which works to bring fresh faces and talent to the area. Though the community has struggled with crime and poverty over the years, residents are passionate about drawing new homeowners looking for affordable urban living to the area. A number of community street fairs and festivals bring family-friendly entertainment options close to home.

### KING-LINCOLN BRONZEVILLE/OLDE TOWNE EAST

These storied neighborhoods sit side by side just east of downtown. Olde Towne East is a visual feast, lined with stately mansions in various states of remodel, Greek Revival and Italianate homes, and brownstone-esque condos and houses leftover from its 19th-century heyday as the upscale neighborhood du jour. King-Lincoln Bronzeville was a Black business hub in the 1930s, with a rich legacy of arts, culture and jazz. Those traditions are being carried on today by performances and events at the Lincoln Theatre, a historic art deco-style stage where musical groups like the Jazz Arts Group of Columbus play throughout the year, and the King Arts Complex, a genre-spanning hub of cultural art.

### LINDEN/NORTHLAND

Running along Cleveland Avenue east of Clintonville and the University District, Linden is bisected into North and South Linden by Hudson Street. North Linden is home to a number of restaurants featuring a variety of international cuisines, with Somali and Caribbean standouts in particular. Continuing farther north into Northland along Morse Road, a wealth of bargains await, including several furniture warehouse stores, as you head east toward the seemingly limitless retail and entertainment of the always-expanding Easton (these days, a whole district unto itself—see page 100). Crime has historically been an issue in these neighborhoods, but attention from civic leaders, residents and local organizations are working together to change that.

### NORTHWEST COLUMBUS

Sandwiched between Upper Arlington, Dublin and Worthington, this residential neighborhood features a number of busy strip malls and tasty Asian eateries. If you're looking for some of the city's best and most authentic Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean fare, look no further; some of the international groceries sprinkled throughout the area also serve prepared foods, plus ingredients to cook at home.



### SHORT NORTH ARTS DISTRICT

The Short North has long been known as an arts district, and certainly its many worthwhile galleries and extensive outdoor public art murals and sculptures earn that distinction. Its 17 steel arches pay homage to the wooden versions first installed in 1888, which gave Columbus its nickname of "Arch City." In recent years, the Short North has become a vibrant strip of High Street that's densely populated with local businesses. You'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to hip boutiques, in-demand local and national restaurants, and an increasing amount of lively, Instagram-perfect rooftop bars and nightlife.

### VICTORIAN VILLAGE/ ITALIAN VILLAGE

The two historical neighborhoods hugging the Short North's east and west flanks—Italian Village and Victorian Village, respectively—are rich with eclectic housing options and cool community vibes. Popular for their walkability to the dining and entertainment of the Short North, but prized for their quiet, tree-lined streets and pocket parks, these neighborhoods are popular for young professionals, families and retirees alike. Italian Village in particular has seen a number of apartment and condo buildings go up in recent years, attracting even more young blood. Hidden gems abound when it comes to neighborhood dining and local watering holes, including the restaurant incubator Budd Dairy Food Hall (see page 108).

### UNIVERSITY DISTRICT/SOHUD

Yell "O-H" in this part of town, any time of day or night, and you'll hear back a resounding "I-O!" That's because this 3-mile stretch of High Street is home to what its fans love to refer to as THE Ohio State University, the campus of which is situated between High Street and the Olentangy River. Packed with students, bars and businesses, it's the most densely populated area of the city. Critics decry the turnover of gritty local student haunts to increasingly homogeneous corporate entities (think: fewer dive bars, more Target), while others have welcomed the overdue modernization and increase in dining and convenience. (And all sides agree that Buckeye Donuts is the sweetest enduring holdover.) Buckeye fandom aside, this area is home to an important artistic attraction: the Wexner Center for the Arts, around which the university is facilitating a major facelift to create a walkable district-within-the-district.

# CENTER CITY STAMPEDE

The residential revival of downtown Columbus is ramping up, with nearly 15,000 people expected to live there by the end of 2024.

**M**ore than 11,200 residents called downtown Columbus home in 2021. That's twice as many downtown dwellers as compared to 2009—just a dozen years earlier. Even with construction slowdowns caused by the pandemic, developers have managed to keep pace with the fast-growing demand, creating more than 4,500 new downtown living spaces in that same timeframe. From luxury apartments to industrial microlofts, here's a look at the wide variety of residential options available in the center city now.

## @150 North 3rd

With its sleek, modern exterior featuring bright orange and aqua accents, this new, 79-unit property between Long and Spring streets has already turned many heads. Inside, these pet-friendly apartment homes offer open floor plans—some with 14-foot ceilings—a clubhouse, a fitness center and an elevated courtyard for entertaining.

## 80 on the Commons

This 12-story high rise located on the southeast corner of Columbus Commons includes both apartments and penthouse units, as well as commercial space and ground-level retail. The building features a rooftop terrace, private balconies, oversized windows, a large community space, private garage parking and bicycle storage.

## 250 High

Situated between Rich and Main streets near Columbus Commons, this 12-story mixed-use sister complex to 80 on the Commons features 121 apartment homes, including rooftop penthouses. This pet-friendly development includes floor-to-ceiling windows, a fitness center, rooftop terrace and community lounge.



Image credit: Adam Cairns

## The Atlas Apartments

Designed by renowned Columbus architect Frank Packard and built in 1905 as the Columbus Savings and Trust Building, The Atlas was converted into 98 luxury apartments in 2015. This iconic, New York-inspired building on the corner of Long and High streets includes several distinctive architectural features, such as a stunning white marble staircase in the lobby and arched windows, while embracing an urban-contemporary vibe in its décor.

## The Citizens

A former savings and loan at the corner of West Gay and High streets has been transformed into this one-of-a-kind apartment community. Many of the building's historic features, including the marbled lobby with its high-arched ceiling and some of the original bank vaults, have been restored. On-site amenities—including a rooftop patio lounge with a pool and firepit, a dog wash area and a 24-hour fitness center—complement the 63 luxury apartments on the upper floors.

## The Harlow on Main

Touted as one of the most affordable options in downtown, The Harlow caters to free-spirited, design-conscious residents looking for a smaller floor plan. Bike storage, a lounge with billiards and a big screen TV, plus a coffee bar, dog park, 24-hour fitness center and covered parking are among the amenities in this 121-unit, ultra-modern building just east of Fourth Street.

## High & Cherry Apartments

A truly urban vibe permeates this new, 120-unit, pet-friendly community one block southwest of the Columbus Commons, at West Cherry and High streets. Featuring modern floor plans, a private courtyard and unique finishes, this sleek, modern property also has its own parking garage.

## Highpoint on Columbus Commons

Overlooking the popular Columbus Commons green space, this stylish, pet-friendly property features a clubhouse, open terrace swimming pool and lounge area, billiards room, fitness center and covered parking.

## Industry Columbus

Floor-to-ceiling windows and a chef-caliber kitchen grace every one of the 236 apartments in this pet-friendly East Long Street building. An on-site sports bar and community market, fitness center and yoga room, co-working space, dog park, pool deck and hot tub are just some of the perks of living here.

### LC RiverSouth

This recently expanded LC property, just a block east of the picturesque Scioto Mile, features skyline views and pet-friendly green spaces. The townhomes along Front and Town streets include outdoor courtyards and a fully equipped gym. The newest phase, along High and Rich streets, includes an infinity-edge pool and a pub featuring live music and leagues for volleyball, euchre and cornhole.

### Lear Block Lofts

True urban loft living defines these 26 stunning units located within a repurposed 1910 auto manufacturing building on North Sixth Street in the Discovery District. The apartments feature open floor plans, exposed brick and high ceilings with thick beams and exposed mechanicals. The former auto showroom has even been converted into heated garage parking.

### Library Park

With three residences to choose from, plus another in the works, this complex has become a stylish and vibrant anchor in downtown's Discovery District. The newest addition, at 50 S. Grant Ave., features a lobby espresso bar, pocket gardens and a third-level outdoor pool deck with fire pits and grill stations. The 409 Oak St. property has a rooftop club room and terrace overlooking Topiary Park, as well as an on-site pet spa and original art installations, thanks to developer and renowned art supporter The Pizzuti Cos. The 66 S. Grant Ave. complex is a collection of beautifully restored historic buildings adjacent to Topiary Park and the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The properties include access to an on-site fitness facility and outdoor courtyards with café seating.

### LVQ Apartments & LeVeque Tower Residences

With sweeping views of downtown, the city's first skyscraper has become home to eight luxury condos and 69 apartments. On-site dining at The Keep Kitchen & Liquor Bar and a glamorous location adjacent to the Palace Theatre help these exclusive, high-end living spaces generate plenty of interest. Amenities also include secured garage parking, a 24-hour fitness center and pet-friendly policies.

### Miranova

This 26-floor residential building along the Scioto River features enormous condos with clear views of downtown and Bicentennial Park. Constructed in 2000, the tower includes a private gym, heated pool, tennis court, car washing bays, entertainment room with a fireplace and billiards table, private balconies and a parking garage.

### MicroLiving @ Long and Front

Three previously neglected historic buildings at the corner of Long and Front streets have been repurposed into this 37-unit residential property with street-level retail shops. Just steps from the Arena District, these surprisingly affordable apartments feature high ceilings, poured concrete floors and modern, minimalist floor plans.

### The Nicholas

Spanning half a block along West Gay and High streets, this six-story, three-tower property is home to 232 well-appointed apartments with retail shops on the ground floor and a parking garage. Chic, on-site amenities include a club room with billiards, yoga studio, business center and glass-wall cantilevered pool with a dining courtyard overlooking downtown.



### ONE at the Peninsula

Technically across the river in Franklinton, this 329-unit residential tower along the Scioto Peninsula features breathtaking views of downtown. A rooftop club room with an outdoor pool, meditation garden, pet spa and community gaming/bar area are just some of the perks that set this property apart. A second-phase development with 400 additional units is also in the works.

### Parks Edge Condominiums

Sporting spectacular views of the skyline and river, these condos along West Spring Street in the Arena District have grown in phases, with more than 200 units currently within the development. A rooftop pool, hot tub and sundeck with an outdoor covered kitchen top the amenities list. Inside, residents have access to a social room with a fireplace, a fitness center, bar and even a guest suite.

### The Pierce

The bright red exterior of this 93-unit apartment community stands proudly along East Capital Street between Sixth Street and Grant Avenue. Residents enjoy private balconies, a community terrace, fitness center, club room, on-site parking, reading area and private conference rooms.

### The View on Grant

These industrial loft apartments in the Discovery District feature open floor plans with large windows, high ceilings, poured concrete floors and exposed brick. Other amenities include a community rooftop lounge and grill, fitness center, protected bike storage, a secured garage with automated stack parking and a Stauf's Coffee Roasters café.

### Waterford Tower

Just because it's the granddaddy of them all doesn't mean this 88-unit residential tower is outdated. Far from it. Three high-speed elevators whisk residents to panoramic views of downtown or the hot tub on the sundeck lounge. This well-maintained property, opened in 1988, also includes an indoor heated pool with lap lanes, a fitness center, secured underground parking and a party room.

### Xander on State

Another new gem in the Discovery District, the 222-unit Xander includes outdoor spaces with grills, games, a pool and a firepit. A community theater room, fitness center, coffee bar and in-building parking options round out the posh amenities.

# HOUSING RESOURCES

Helpful information on everything from apartments and condos to real estate agencies and builders.



## REAL ESTATE

### Columbus REALTORS®

Columbus REALTORS® has served the Central Ohio area since 1908. Consumers can search for member Realtors based on location or language spoken, from Afrikaans and American Sign Language to Urdu and Vietnamese. Other useful information provided to consumers includes sales statistics, the latest industry news and local builder resources.

[columbusrealtors.com](http://columbusrealtors.com)

### Area Agencies

Era Real Solutions Realty	<a href="http://era.com">era.com</a>
Keller Williams Greater Columbus	<a href="http://kw.com">kw.com</a>
Rolls Realty	<a href="http://rollsrealty.com">rollsrealty.com</a>
Coldwell Banker King Thompson	<a href="http://coldwellbankerhomes.com">coldwellbankerhomes.com</a>
Address	<a href="http://addresscrawfordhoying.com">addresscrawfordhoying.com</a>
HER Realtors	<a href="http://herrealtors.com">herrealtors.com</a>
RE/MAX	<a href="http://remax.com">remax.com</a>



## BUILDERS

### BIA of Central Ohio

The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio supports and represents homebuilders, developers and remodelers throughout the area. Consumers can search an online database to find trusted member businesses.

[biahomebuilders.com](http://biahomebuilders.com)

### Ohio Home Builders Association

This trade association serves home builders, remodelers, land developers and others promoting affordable housing opportunities. Its 4,500 members throughout the Buckeye State give weight to its annual "Best of Ohio" awards.

[ohiohba.com](http://ohiohba.com)

### Area Companies

3 Pillar Homes	<a href="http://3pillar.com">3pillar.com</a>
Compass Builders	<a href="http://compasshomes.com">compasshomes.com</a>
M/I Homes	<a href="http://mihomes.com">mihomes.com</a>
Pulte Homes	<a href="http://pulte.com">pulte.com</a>
Homewood Homes	<a href="http://homewood-homes.com">homewood-homes.com</a>
Ryan Homes	<a href="http://ryanhomes.com">ryanhomes.com</a>



## APARTMENTS AND CONDOS



CASTO Communities	mid-range and luxury apartments	<a href="http://castocommunities.com">castocommunities.com</a>
Coastal Ridge	high-end apartments and condos	<a href="http://coastalridge.com">coastalridge.com</a>
Crawford Hoying	high-end apartments and condos	<a href="http://crawfordhoying.com">crawfordhoying.com</a>
Edwards Companies	high-end apartments and condos	<a href="http://edwardscommunities.com">edwardscommunities.com</a>
Kaufman Development	high-end apartments and condos	<a href="http://livekaufman.com">livekaufman.com</a>
Metro Development	mid-range and luxury apartments	<a href="http://villagecommunities.com">villagecommunities.com</a>
Metropolitan Holdings	high-end apartments and condos	<a href="http://metropolitanholdings.com">metropolitanholdings.com</a>
Redwood Living	single-story apartment homes	<a href="http://byredwood.com">byredwood.com</a>
Champion	comfortable mid-range apartments	<a href="http://livewithchampion.com">livewithchampion.com</a>
LC	mid-level and high-end apartments	<a href="http://lifestylecommunities.com">lifestylecommunities.com</a>
Preferred Living	luxury apartments	<a href="http://livepreferred.com">livepreferred.com</a>
Treplus Communities	senior living for adults 55 and older	<a href="http://trepluscommunities.com">trepluscommunities.com</a>



# EDUCATION IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

04.

“COLUMBUS TRULY HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. WE MOVED HERE AS A YOUNG COUPLE WITH NO CHILDREN AND FOUND TONS TO DO. WE NOW HAVE TWO SMALL CHILDREN AND HAVE DISCOVERED EVEN MORE GREAT THINGS TO DO THAT ARE PERFECT FOR FAMILIES.”

**GINA DUNHAM**

Meta | Business Portfolio Manager

*Moved here in 2018 from San Francisco, California*

## COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

IN THIS SECTION

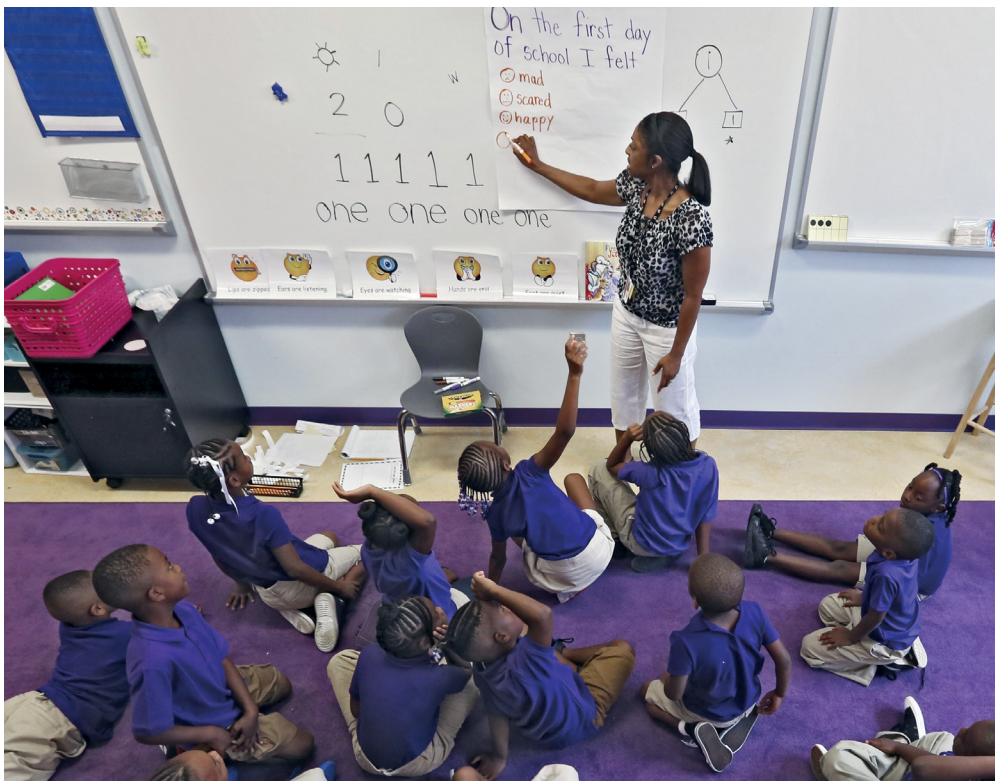
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NO. 4

THE RANK OF  
BEXLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
IN THE STATE OF OHIO

TOP 5

RANKED COLUMBUS  
HIGH SCHOOLS:

1. BEXLEY
2. GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS
3. DUBLIN JEROME
4. OLENTANGY
5. GRANVILLE

Source: U.S. News & World Report

## MAKING THE GRADE

Public school districts are a major factor to consider when choosing a place to live. Read on for details about options in the Columbus Region.

Choosing the best school district for your child to attend is an important step in any relocation process. In 2022, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Columbus public schools based on college readiness, college curriculum breadth, state assessment proficiency and performance, underserved student performance, and graduation rates.

Bexley High School earned the top spot in the Columbus metro area and fourth in the state for giving students Advanced Placement course opportunities and exams, in which 85 percent of the high school participates. Here, 98 percent of the students graduate high school, and college-readiness scores are high.

Other schools rounding out the top five in

the metro area were Grandview Heights, Dublin Jerome, Olentangy and Granville high schools.

The statistics used in the subsequent listings were pulled from the Ohio School Report Card system. Report Cards are designed to give parents, teachers, administrators and policymakers information about how the state's schools perform. The reports not only identify points of improvement, but also celebrate successes, and were revised in 2022 for the 2021-22 school year.

"Report Card reform was enacted in state law to address multiple years of stakeholder feedback regarding desired improvements to the state's report card system, specifically moving away from the A-F system," says chief program officer Chris Woolard. "The reforms moved to a star

*Clockwise from top right, Pickerington High School; Columbus Africentric Early College; Teays Valley High School*

**“MY JOB PRESENTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TO COLUMBUS. WHILE I DIDN’T HAVE TO TAKE IT, MY HUSBAND AND I JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO ESTABLISH ROOTS, SETTLE DOWN AND RAISE A FAMILY HERE.”**

**GINA DUNHAM**

Meta | Business Portfolio Manager

*Moved here in 2018 from San Francisco, California*

rating system and made several improvements to the measures within the system, with the goal of transparent and easily understandable performance measures for schools and districts.”

The updated Report Cards’ six components include achievement; progress; gap closings; graduation; early literacy; and college, career, workforce and military readiness. The star system associated with these components shows where the school falls on a spectrum from exhibiting need of significant support to significantly exceeding the state’s standards.

The achievement component represents whether student performance on state tests meets established thresholds and how well students performed overall. Progress examines the growth all students are making based on past performances. Gap closings measures the reduction of educational gaps between all students and specific subgroups related to race/ethnicity, economic disadvantage, disability or English as a second language. Graduation looks at four- and five-year cohort graduation rates. Early literacy examines improvements to reading scores for at-risk students in grades K-3. College, career, workforce and military readiness looks at how prepared students are for a variety of future opportunities, including those in technical fields, jobs, college or the military.

Select Report Card data for area districts in the 2021-2022 academic year is listed in the following pages. Of course, reports only share a part of the story of any school. Parents are encouraged to visit schools, talk to teachers and review school websites for a more complete look at any district to determine if it’s a good fit for their family.



#### REPORT CARD DATA

Scan the QR code to review Report Cards for specific districts and individual schools.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special needs students are in good hands in Franklin County. Each year, two historic Central Ohio schools, both located in the Columbus neighborhood of Clintonville, meet the unique needs of hundreds of area deaf, hard-of-hearing, visually impaired and blind students.

### Ohio School for the Deaf

The Ohio School for the Deaf was established in 1829 and is one of the longest-standing public deaf schools in the United States. The campus, comprising over 200 acres of mature trees, flower beds and wooded areas, welcomes over 125 deaf and hard-of-hearing students for comprehensive preschool through grade 12 education each year.

In line with Ohio’s public schools, the OSD provides a sequential curriculum for academic achievement and career development, plus support services including speech therapy, psychological testing, counseling, technology instruction and adult transition. The residential program operates Sunday evening through Friday afternoon, with some exceptions, and offers a wide variety of student-development activities, athletics and recreation. Current efforts are underway to improve OSD students’ bilingual literacy and language skills.

[osd.ohio.gov](http://osd.ohio.gov)

### Ohio State School for the Blind

Founded a few years later, in 1837, the nearby Ohio State School for the Blind was the first public school in the country for the education of blind and visually impaired students. Each year, the school welcomes over 100 students enrolled in educational programs including early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary transition, also known as EDGE.

During the school day, students engage in academic and fine arts courses. After school, students may continue their learning through extracurricular clubs and athletics, and the school’s on-site residential program serves students who live on campus with expanded evening programming.

[ossb.ohio.gov](http://ossb.ohio.gov)



Ohio School for the Deaf

COLUMBUS REGION PUBLIC SCHOOLS RATINGS

Rating Criteria and Definitions

**Achievement:**  
Measures students' scores on state tests according to established criteria

**Progress:**  
Measures growth among all students based on past performance

**Gap Closing:**  
Measures the reduction in educational gaps for subgroups of students

**Graduation:**  
Measures the four-year adjusted cohort and five-year adjusted cohort graduation rates

**Early Literacy:**  
Measures reading proficiency in kindergarten through third grade

**College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness:**  
Measures students' preparedness for future opportunities  
*(Note: This component will not be rated or factor into overall rating until 2024-25 school year at the earliest.)*

**5 stars:**  
Significantly exceeds state standards

**4 stars:**  
Exceeds state standards

**3 stars:**  
Meets state standards

**2 stars:**  
Needs support to meet state standards

**1 star:**  
Needs significant support to meet state standards

*\*Includes online/digital learning programs*

	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE RATE	GRADUATION RATE	PER-PUPIL SPENDING	ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS
FRANKLIN COUNTY						
Bexley City Schools	2,455	93.9%	95.7%	\$14,598	*****	*****
Canal Winchester Local School District	3,699	91.1%	93.4%	\$10,391	***	****
Columbus City Schools	45,192	79.7%	79.7%	\$13,964	**	***
Dublin City Schools	15,800	93.5%	96.1%	\$12,846	****	*****
Gahanna-Jefferson City School District	7,856	93.8%	93.9%	\$10,595	****	****
Grandview Heights Schools	1,103	94.2%	97.6%	\$16,503	*****	***
Groveport Madison Local School District	5,948	88.7%	83.0%	\$11,579	**	*****
Hamilton Local School District	2,925	90.8%	85.0%	\$9,462	***	*****
Hilliard City Schools	15,874	93.1%	90.2%	\$11,361	****	*****
Metro Schools	888	93.2%	99.3%	\$8,855	****	***
New Albany-Plain Local School District	5,009	93.9%	98.8%	\$12,311	*****	*****
Reynoldsburg City School District	7,065	90.2%	93.6%	\$9,920	**	**
South-Western City School District	21,480	88.1%	88.4%	\$10,220	***	*****
Upper Arlington Schools	6,191	94.4%	96.5%	\$14,318	*****	*****
Westerville City School District	14,133	92.3%	91.3%	\$11,415	****	****
Whitehall City School District	3,124	88.3%	82.0%	\$9,169	**	*****
Worthington City School District	10,341	93.0%	93.9%	\$12,453	****	*****
DELAWARE COUNTY						
Big Walnut Local School District	3,997	94.0%	96.4%	\$10,438	****	***
Buckeye Valley Local School District	2,083	92.1%	97.1%	\$12,465	****	****
Delaware City School District	5,371	92.1%	92.9%	\$10,108	***	*****
Olentangy Local School District	21,803	94.0%	98.0%	\$11,148	*****	*****
FAIRFIELD COUNTY						
Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District	1,460	91.7%	90.1%	\$9,806	***	**
Berne Union Local School District	803	92.2%	100.0%	\$12,674	***	***
Bloom-Carroll Local School District	2,191	93.3%	96.5%	\$10,388	****	****
Fairfield Union Local School District	1,874	92.0%	96.5%	\$10,435	****	****
Lancaster City Schools	6,131	89.1%	92.0%	\$9,922	***	*****
Liberty Union-Thurston Local School District	1,192	93.6%	92.2%	\$11,684	***	*
Pickerington Local School District	10,676	92.0%	94.0%	\$10,321	****	*****
Walnut Township Local School District	476	91.1%	95.0%	\$13,940	****	***
KNOX COUNTY						
Centerburg Local School District	1,050	93.4%	92.9%	\$11,023	****	**
Danville Local School District	591	94.0%	95.9%	\$12,312	***	*
East Knox Local School District	887	92.9%	94.4%	\$10,211	***	*
Fredericktown Local School District	1,143	92.4%	97.3%	\$9,180	****	***
Mount Vernon City Schools	3,512	92.4%	90.5%	\$10,177	****	****

State average per-pupil spending: \$11,246

GAP CLOSING	GRADUATION	EARLY LITERACY	# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	# ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOLS	# MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS	# MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOLS*	# HIGH SCHOOLS*	# K-12 SCHOOLS*
*****	*****	***	3	0	1	0	1	1
*****	*****	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
***	*	*	68	5	17	3	17	1
*****	*****	***	14	0	5	0	3	1
*****	*****	***	7	0	3	0	1	0
*****	*****	****	1	0	1	0	1	0
****	*	**	6	0	3	0	1	0
****	**	***	1	0	2	0	1	0
*****	***	***	14	0	5	0	4	0
****	*****	n/a	0	0	0	1	0	0
*****	*****	*****	2	0	2	0	1	0
****	*****	**	6	0	4	0	2	1
*****	**	**	16	0	10	0	4	0
*****	*****	*****	5	0	2	1	1	0
*****	***	***	15	0	4	0	3	0
*****	**	*	3	0	1	0	1	0
*****	****	****	11	0	5	0	3	0
*****	*****	***	4	0	2	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	5	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	*****	16	0	5	0	4	0
****	**	**	2	0	1	0	1	0
****	*****	***	0	1	0	1	0	0
*****	****	****	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	***	**	5	0	2	0	1	0
***	****	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	****	***	7	0	5	0	3	1
*****	***	**	1	0	0	1	0	0
****	****	***	1	0	0	1	0	0
***	****	***	1	0	0	1	0	0
**	****	**	1	0	0	1	0	0
*****	*****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
****	***	***	6	0	1	0	2	0

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**2 stars:**  
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**1 star:**  
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*\*Includes online/digital learning programs*

	ENROLLMENT	ATTENDANCE RATE	GRADUATION RATE	PER-PUPIL SPENDING	ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS
MORROW COUNTY						
Cardington-Lincoln Local School District	1,002	90.8%	87.7%	\$10,873	***	★
Highland Local Schools	1,690	91.3%	97.8%	\$10,079	****	***
Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools	1,030	89.8%	89.4%	\$10,929	***	*****
Northmor Local School District	1,012	92.9%	97.3%	\$11,667	****	*****
MARION COUNTY						
Elgin Local School District	1,015	89.3%	91.3%	\$10,449	***	*****
Marion City Schools	4,210	83.7%	91.7%	\$10,877	**	**
Pleasant Local School District	1,230	93.3%	98.9%	\$8,875	***	**
Ridgedale Local School District	614	90.4%	97.4%	\$11,886	***	***
River Valley Local School District	1,886	93.6%	97.3%	\$9,823	***	***
LICKING COUNTY						
Granville Exempted Village Schools	2,479	94.7%	98.1%	\$12,227	*****	****
Heath City School District	1,667	89.9%	93.0%	\$9,886	****	***
Johnstown-Monroe Local School District	1,652	92.2%	96.4%	\$10,422	****	**
Lakewood Local School District	1,626	90.3%	91.4%	\$12,224	***	*****
Licking Heights Local School District	4,812	93.2%	94.8%	\$8,203	***	*****
Licking Valley Local School District	2,006	93.9%	94.2%	\$9,986	***	**
Newark City Schools	6,008	89.7%	82.6%	\$10,058	***	★
North Fork Local School District	1,503	91.9%	88.7%	\$10,450	***	**
Northridge Local School Districts	1,113	92.0%	91.4%	\$12,409	***	***
Southwest Licking Local School District	4,578	92.5%	95.9%	\$8,382	****	****
MADISON COUNTY						
Jefferson Local Schools	1,001	91.6%	95.5%	\$13,141	***	***
Jonathan Alder Local School District	2,162	92.2%	95.5%	\$10,108	****	**
London City Schools	2,077	91.6%	94.2%	\$9,059	***	**
Madison-Plains Local School District	1,110	90.7%	90.7%	\$11,792	****	***
PICKAWAY COUNTY						
Circleville City School District	2,060	87.8%	89.0%	\$10,403	**	****
Logan Elm Local School District	1,657	92.9%	92.4%	\$10,966	***	***
Teays Valley Local Schools	4,223	90.1%	91.4%	\$9,664	****	★
Westfall Local School District	1,328	94.3%	87.5%	\$13,526	***	★
LOGAN COUNTY						
Bellefontaine City Schools	2,163	90.1%	95.9%	\$11,648	***	***
Benjamin Logan Local School District	1,610	93.3%	97.7%	\$10,827	****	****
Indian Lake Local School District	1,365	92.6%	96.5%	\$12,038	****	*****
Riverside Local School District	561	93.7%	100.0%	\$12,965	****	***
UNION COUNTY						
Fairbanks Local School District	1,050	94.9%	93.1%	\$11,586	****	***
Marysville Exempted Village School District	5,141	94.0%	97.3%	\$10,331	****	***
North Union Local School District	1,400	90.6%	96.6%	\$11,923	****	****

State average per-pupil spending: \$11,246

GAP CLOSING	GRADUATION	EARLY LITERACY	# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	# ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOLS	# MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS	# MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOLS	# HIGH SCHOOLS	# K-12 SCHOOLS
****	**	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
***	***	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	**	1	0	0	1	0	0
***	*****	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
***	***	*	6	0	1	0	1	0
****	*****	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
**	*****	**	1	0	0	1	0	0
****	*****	**	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	*****	2	0	1	0	1	0
****	****	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	****	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	***	**	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	****	**	3	0	2	0	1	0
***	****	***	1	0	1	0	1	1
***	*	***	7	0	3	1	1	0
***	***	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	***	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	****	***	4	0	1	1	1	0
****	****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
****	****	***	2	0	2	0	1	0
***	****	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	***	**	1	0	2	0	1	0
****	***	**	1	0	1	0	1	0
****	***	**	3	0	2	0	1	0
*****	***	***	4	0	2	0	1	1
**	**	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	2	0	1	0	1	0
*****	****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0
****	*****	***	1	0	0	1	0	0
*****	****	****	1	0	1	0	1	0
*****	*****	***	5	0	2	0	2	0
*****	*****	***	1	0	1	0	1	0

# CLASS ACT

The area is home to a wide variety of private, independent schools, both parochial and secular.





The following list is not intended to be comprehensive; the schools included are some of the biggest and best-known in the area. Most offer tuition assistance, scholarships and/or financial aid options. You can learn more about individual, nonpublic schools by searching that category in the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Educational Directory System, a database in which users maintain their own data, at [oeds.ode.state.oh.us](https://oeds.ode.state.oh.us). (The OEDS also contains data on public schools and districts, as well as community schools and other educational organizations.) Data are for the 2022-23 school year unless otherwise noted.



**“[WE AIM TO] PROVIDE A CENTERED, HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CHILDREN’S EDUCATION AND THERAPEUTIC NEEDS.”**

**JANELLE MAUR**  
Bridgeway Academy | Director of Advancement





## ACTON ACADEMY COLUMBUS

	<b>GRADES</b> K-6		<b>ENROLLMENT</b> 18
	<b>TUITION</b> \$11,300		<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 9:1

6543 Commerce Parkway, Suite E, Dublin;  
614-603-7227; [actonacademycolumbus.com](https://actonacademycolumbus.com)

This student-centered school encourages learning through real-world challenges in robotics, entrepreneurship and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). Acton Academy does away with tests, homework, grades and lectures; instead, students learn in a mixed-age classroom through hands-on projects and measure their subject mastery through personalized goals completed during the academy’s extended school year. “What we’re trying to do is give [students] agency in their own education,” says director Varun Bhatia. Though the school only offers an elementary program, it plans to expand its curriculum through to 12th grade in the coming years.

## BRIDGEWAY ACADEMY

	<b>GRADES</b> Preschool –age 21		<b>ENROLLMENT</b> 220
	<b>TUITION</b> \$32,000– \$38,000		<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 3:1

1350 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus;  
614-262-7520; [bridgewayohio.org](https://bridgewayohio.org)

Founded in 2005 by a speech pathologist and music therapist, Bridgeway Academy is a nonprofit education center for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. The school offers music, occupational, physical and speech therapy services and aims to “provide a centered, holistic approach to children’s education and therapeutic needs,” says Janelle Maur, Bridgeway’s director of advancement. The hallmark of its education center is the low student-teacher ratios at every grade level. Additionally, the academy is able to evaluate children for autism spectrum disorder through a partnership with the Bridgeway Therapy Center.

## CLINTONVILLE ACADEMY

 <b>GRADES</b> Pre-K-8	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 121	 <b>TUITION</b> \$9,895	<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 18:1
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3616 Indianola Ave., Columbus; 614-267-4799; [clintonvilleacademy.org](http://clintonvilleacademy.org)

Clintonville Academy is a private school for early and middle education. With intentionally small class sizes, “we are able to really adapt to the needs that [students] have and get really creative,” director Amy Williams says. “We don’t feel harnessed by curriculum.” Community service is a significant part of student experience, with students at all grade levels participating in service programs throughout the year. Clintonville Academy also values global education and begins Spanish and French instruction in pre-K, culminating in class trips to France, Mexico or Spain in the seventh or eighth grade.



## COLUMBUS ACADEMY

 <b>GRADES</b> Pre-K-12	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 1,170
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 <b>TUITION</b> \$14,000-\$32,200
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**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO**

7:1 (lower school), 17:1 (middle school), 14:1 (high school)

4300 Cherry Bottom Road, Gahanna; 614-475-2311; [columbusacademy.org](http://columbusacademy.org)

This independent, college preparatory school in Gahanna features a challenging academic curriculum, advanced STEM offerings (including computer science and robotics), a strong emphasis on arts and athletics, and a focus on character development. “Our students are invited to challenge themselves academically while working for the good of the community and developing sound skills in ethics and character,” says head of school Melissa Soderberg. The expansive campus covers 231 acres (including renovated arts spaces designed to invite exploration, creativity and action) and serves children as young as age 3.

## COLUMBUS JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

 <b>GRADES</b> K-5	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 61	 <b>TUITION</b> \$18,000	<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 10:1
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150 E. Granville Road, New Albany; 614-939-5311; [cjds.org](http://cjds.org)

Columbus Jewish Day School is a private elementary school that blends secular subjects with Jewish studies. “A child never sees themselves compartmentalized, but rather sees themselves as a thriving human being who is full of wonder,” says Rabbi Morris Allen, the transitional head of school. Founded in 1998, the school sits on 7 acres of meadow, creek, pond and woodlands with six outdoor classrooms that students learn in year-round. CJDS also places an emphasis on service learning, teaching students how to tend to the school’s garden and donating the vegetables they grow to local food banks.



## COLUMBUS MONTESSORI EDUCATION CENTER

 <b>GRADES</b> Pre-K-6	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 250	 <b>TUITION</b> \$11,700-\$20,300	<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 12:1
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979 S. James Road, Columbus; 614-231-3790; [columbusmontessori.org](http://columbusmontessori.org)

This private, independent school teaches children from six weeks to sixth grade using the Montessori method, which nurtures academic and personal growth through a focus on individuality, child-led learning and multi-age classrooms. The school's core elementary curriculum includes art, music, physical education and online language instruction. "We're strengthening the skill set, equipping children to have a global perspective and be able to function and be successful," says executive director Jamie Gottesman. The 7-acre location features thoughtfully planned indoor classrooms and outdoor learning spaces, with students learning in three age-based part- or full-day settings.

## COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

 <b>GRADES</b> Pre-K-12	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 503	 <b>TUITION</b> \$21,150-\$30,095	<b>STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO</b> 8:1
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65 S. Drexel Ave., Bexley; 614-252-0781; [columbuschoolforgirls.org](http://columbuschoolforgirls.org)

Founded in 1898 and located just east of downtown Columbus in Bexley, Columbus School for Girls is an independent college preparatory day school with the mission of empowering girls to discover their distinct potential as learners and leaders. CSG has three campuses: a state-of-the-art main campus (featuring advanced classrooms; an indoor, eight-lane pool; a yoga room; a fitness center; and a theater), as well as a 100-acre nature preserve and 80-acre outdoor athletics complex, both located nearby. Highlights of CSG's challenging curriculum include a robust computer science program, leading-edge visual and performing arts opportunities, social-emotional development, and leadership programming for all students.

## COLUMBUS TORAH ACADEMY

 <b>GRADES</b> K-12	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 212	 <b>TUITION</b> \$12,680-\$20,993
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**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO**  
11:1 (lower school), 8:1 (upper school)

181 Noe Bixby Road, Columbus;  
614-864-0299; [torahacademy.org](http://torahacademy.org)

Columbus Torah Academy is an Orthodox Jewish academy providing comprehensive college preparatory and Judaic studies education for Jewish students. Committed to providing an intellectually stimulating and academically progressive learning environment, the CTA facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art chemistry, biology and computer labs, as well as two libraries, a gymnasium and a chapel. "CTA meets and exceeds learning standards that will prepare students to continue their education and become successful in their chosen fields," says development and marketing coordinator Shari Herszage. The campus is situated on 22 wooded acres, and students investigate science in the school's 20-acre "land lab."



## THE JUNIPER SCHOOL

 <b>GRADES</b> Preschool-6	 <b>ENROLLMENT</b> 100
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 <b>TUITION</b> \$2,205-\$8,378
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**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO**  
7:1 (early childhood), 16:1 (grade school)

76 Charleston Ave., Columbus;  
614-233-1755; [thejuniperschool.org](http://thejuniperschool.org)

This not-for-profit school aims to guide students through a nature- and arts-based curriculum, including classes in Earth cycles, movement and cooking. The school's teaching model draws from Rudolf Steiner methods, which emphasize a holistic education based in imagination, creativity, love and reverence. "We value the wisdom of children, but we're also, as teachers, empowered to lead them," says Kate Curlis, a lead fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Juniper. In addition to general subjects, all students learn through unstructured play; those in grade one and higher can partake in special subjects such as handwork, foreign language and music.

**"WE VALUE THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN, BUT WE'RE ALSO, AS TEACHERS, EMPOWERED TO LEAD THEM."**

**KATE CURLIS**

The Juniper School | Teacher

Image credit: courtesy of The Juniper School

## MANSION DAY SCHOOL

**GRADES** Preschool–5

**ENROLLMENT** 65

**TUITION** \$10,634–\$12,703

**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO** 10:1

72 Woodland Ave., Columbus;  
614-258-4449; [mansiondayschool.org](http://mansiondayschool.org)

Located minutes from downtown Columbus, Mansion Day School's mission is to educate children regardless of race or religion, though it is an affinity space for its predominantly Black student body. The coeducational school provides a well-rounded curriculum, including fine arts and foreign language education throughout the lower grades. "We have a rigorous curriculum taught in a disciplined but nurturing environment by teachers who love our students and love teaching," says head of school Dee James. In addition to typical courses, Mansion Day School offers after-school enrichment classes on topics such as woodworking, chess and robotics.

## MARBURN ACADEMY

**GRADES** 1–12

**ENROLLMENT** 241

**TUITION** \$30,390–\$31,640

**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO**  
8:1 (grades 1–8), 16:1 (grades 9–12)

9555 Johnstown Road, New Albany;  
614-433-0822; [marburnacademy.org](http://marburnacademy.org)

Marburn Academy is exclusively devoted to students with learning differences like dyslexia, ADHD or other executive function issues; the curriculum focuses on using assistive technology and multiple teaching modalities to help every student reach their potential. "We do everything we can in our power as education specialists to meet the students where they are and provide them the education they so richly deserve," says head of school Eldrich Carr. The academy's innovative arts, athletics and tutoring programs, as well as its excellent engineering, robotics and technology courses, continue to develop after its 2017 move into a larger facility.



## OAKSTONE ACADEMY

**GRADES** Pre–K–12

**ENROLLMENT** 547

**TUITION** \$1,900–\$5,700

**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO**  
7:1 (elementary school), 10:1 (high school)

900 Club Drive, Westerville;  
614-899-2838; [oakstoneacademy.org](http://oakstoneacademy.org)

This nonprofit, immersion school weaves academic rigor, leadership and character development into an individualized curriculum for students with and without autism spectrum disorders. Oakstone Academy aims to educate the whole student, offering college-level courses and an array of enriched after-school programs in sports and the arts for middle and high schoolers. "Our focus is not on society as a whole, but it's on the individual student and what's best for each one of them," says executive director Nikki Kerns. The school also boasts a chartered, student-run theater troupe, an Olympic-sized indoor pool, and soccer and baseball fields.



**"OUR FOCUS IS NOT ON SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, BUT IT'S ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AND WHAT'S BEST FOR EACH ONE OF THEM."**

**NIKKI KERNS**

Oakstone Academy | Executive Director

## THE WELLINGTON SCHOOL

**GRADES**  
Preschool–12

**ENROLLMENT**  
718

**TUITION**  
\$13,700–\$28,600

**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO** 8:1

3650 Reed Road, Columbus; 614-457-7883; [wellington.org](http://wellington.org)

Wellington's philosophy encourages students to delve into the independent co-ed school's research-based curriculum. The individualized passion projects and deep-dive electives students take on in the lower and middle schools culminate in the upper school's "Wonderlab," a program that pulls that prior experience into a personalized research project. Co-curricular activities are also important; around 75 percent of students participate in athletics, and 100 percent participate in visual or performing arts. "We're a school that really focuses on an educational model that is authentic and relevant, that helps every student feel like they are known and that their voice matters," says head of school Jeff Terwin.



## WELSH HILLS SCHOOL

**GRADES**  
K–12

**ENROLLMENT**  
92

**TUITION** \$10,975–\$13,975

**STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO** 12:1

2610 Newark-Granville Road, Granville;  
740-522-2020; [welshhills.org](http://welshhills.org)

Welsh Hills School represents the only independent school option in Licking County. Its STEAM curriculum is available for students at all grade levels. Welsh Hills also offers a variety of unique enrichment programs, such as Spanish language education beginning with toddlers and continuing through high school, or the "Erdkinder Farm" program that educates students on the natural environment both in the classroom and through hands-on experience in the school's garden, greenhouse and grounds. "We create opportunities for experiencing joy through doing school, because that's the kind of learning that sticks," says head of school Mya Sullivan.



## BHUWAN PYAKUREL

## Ward 3 Representative, Reynoldsburg City Council

I came to the U.S. in 2009 as a refugee from Bhutan, and I relocated from Colorado to the Columbus Region in 2014. We were not planning to come to the Columbus area, but my dad had a skin problem and a doctor told him to move to a lower elevation area, and we decided to follow him. In looking for a house, we chose Reynoldsburg because we wanted good schools, but the second reason was the community. And the housing market was better for people like us, who were making a limited income at that time.

I find this community is very welcoming and adaptive. People are open to talk, to discuss things—and I am representing the community. The Reynoldsburg area, the Columbus Region, is a very welcoming, adaptive and inclusive community at large. The progress that I have seen in the last several years in the Bhutanese-Nepali community here—moving toward entrepreneurship, homeownership and business ownership—has been significant.

*As told to Sarah Steimer*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Diocese of Columbus' Department of Education manages 41 elementary schools with a collective enrollment of 12,400 and 11 high schools with a collective enrollment of 4,700. Bishop Watterson High School and St. Francis De Sales High School are the diocese's largest, while the all-boys St. Charles Preparatory School is notable for rigorous college-prep curriculum and high, top-flight university acceptance rates. "Young people graduate from our Catholic schools prepared to achieve in their chosen vocation in life and to make a difference in the communities in which they live because of a strong moral, ethical and spiritual foundation centered on God's love for all," says superintendent Adam J. Dufault. [education.columbuscatholic.org](http://education.columbuscatholic.org)

### Other Catholic Schools

#### Marion St. Mary School

Marion (Marion County)  
Grades K-8  
[school.marionstmary.org](http://school.marionstmary.org)

#### Newark Catholic High School

Newark (Licking County)  
Grades 9-12  
[newarkcatholic.org](http://newarkcatholic.org)

#### St. Francis de Sales School

Newark (Licking County)  
Grades K-8  
[stfrancisnewark.org](http://stfrancisnewark.org)

#### St. Mary School

Lancaster (Fairfield County)  
Grades K-8  
[stmarylancaster.org](http://stmarylancaster.org)

#### St. Patrick Elementary School

London (Madison County)  
Grades K-8  
[stpatricklondon.org](http://stpatricklondon.org)

#### St. Vincent De Paul School

Mount Vernon (Knox County)  
Grades K-8  
[saintvdpschool.org](http://saintvdpschool.org)

#### William V. Fisher Catholic High School

Lancaster (Fairfield County)  
Grades 9-12  
[fishercatholic.org](http://fishercatholic.org)

### Other Parochial Schools

#### Calumet Christian School

Columbus (Franklin County)  
Grades K-8  
[calumetchristianschool.org](http://calumetchristianschool.org)

#### Calvary Christian School

Bellefontaine (Logan County)  
Grades K-12  
[ccsspartans.com](http://ccsspartans.com)

#### Central College Christian School

Westerville (Delaware County)  
Grades K-5  
[cccacademy.com](http://cccacademy.com)

#### Christian Star Academy

Mount Vernon (Knox County)  
Grades K-12  
[csaedu.org](http://csaedu.org)

#### Columbus Adventist Academy

Columbus (Franklin County)  
Grades K-8  
[caa4eternity.org](http://caa4eternity.org)

#### Crossroads Christian Academy

Circleville (Pickaway County)  
Grades K-12  
[crossroadswarriors.org](http://crossroadswarriors.org)

#### Delaware Christian School

Delaware (Delaware County)  
Grades K-12  
[dcschool.org](http://dcschool.org)

#### Eastwood Seventh-Day Adventist Junior Academy

Westerville (Franklin County)  
Grades K-8  
[ejaonline.org](http://ejaonline.org)

#### Fairfield Christian Academy

Lancaster (Fairfield County)  
Grades K-12  
[fairfieldchristianacademy.com](http://fairfieldchristianacademy.com)

#### Gilead Christian School

Mount Gilead (Morrow County)  
Grades K-12  
[gileadchristianschool.org](http://gileadchristianschool.org)

#### Genoa Christian Academy

Westerville (Delaware County)  
Grades K-12  
[genoachristianacademy.org](http://genoachristianacademy.org)

#### Grace Christian School

Blacklick (Franklin County)  
Grades K-8  
[gcsblacklick.org](http://gcsblacklick.org)

#### Granville Christian Academy

Granville (Licking County)  
Grades K-12  
[granvilleca.org](http://granvilleca.org)

#### Grove City Christian School

Grove City (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[grovecitychristian.org](http://grovecitychristian.org)

#### Harvest Preparatory School

Canal Winchester (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[harvestprep.org](http://harvestprep.org)

#### Liberty Christian Academy

Pataskala (Licking County)  
Grades K-12  
[libertychristianacademy.org](http://libertychristianacademy.org)

#### Licking County Christian Academy

Heath (Licking County)  
Grades K-12  
[lccaeagles.com](http://lccaeagles.com)

#### Madison Christian School

Groveport (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[mcseaglesoh.org](http://mcseaglesoh.org)

#### New Hope Christian Academy

Circleville (Pickaway County)  
Grades K-12  
[nhchristianacademy.org](http://nhchristianacademy.org)

#### Northside Christian School

Westerville (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[ncslions.org](http://ncslions.org)

#### One School

Gahanna (Franklin County)  
Grades K-8  
[oneschool.education](http://oneschool.education)

#### Shekinah Christian School

Plain City (Madison County)  
Grades K-12  
[shekinahchristian.org](http://shekinahchristian.org)

#### St. John's Lutheran School

Marysville (Union County)  
Grades K-8  
[sjsmarysville.org](http://sjsmarysville.org)

#### Trinity Lutheran School

Marysville (Union County)  
Grades K-6  
[trinitymarysville.org](http://trinitymarysville.org)

#### Tree of Life Christian School

Columbus (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[tolcs.org](http://tolcs.org)

#### Worthington Christian Schools

Worthington (Franklin County)  
Grades K-12  
[worthingtonchristian.com](http://worthingtonchristian.com)

# MAKING THE CHOICE

Educational options beyond private and traditional public schools abound in Central Ohio.

Choosing a school for your child is a big decision, with many factors to consider. Fortunately, Columbus boasts many great school systems, including community schools, also known as charter schools. Community schools, according to the Ohio Department of Education's definition, provide a public, K-12 education thanks to state and federal funds and are nonprofit and nonreligious. ODE's 2020-21 Community Schools Annual Report, the most recent available, notes that the state had 315 community schools during that school year, with 77 of them in Franklin County. Elsewhere in the Columbus Region, Licking County and Morrow County have one community school each, and Marion County has three.

Community schools operate in three formats: site-based community schools function like most other brick-and-mortar schools; blended programs provide both in-person and web-based lessons; and e-schools function exclusively through online learning. ODE reports that during the 2020-21 school year, 70 percent of community school students in Ohio were enrolled in a site-based school. The department also notes that community schools have the same graduation requirements as all other public schools.

Lacey Snoke, the interim chief of communications for ODE, encourages parents to search the interactive community school directory on the department's website, [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov), to see which schools are in the area. A visit to a school itself can help guide the decision, too.

One notable community school in the Region is KIPP

Columbus, part of the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) that has nearly 300 schools across the country.

"We create joyful, academically excellent schools that prepare students with the skills and confidence to pursue the path they choose—college, career and beyond—so they can lead fulfilling lives and create a more just world," says KIPP Columbus superintendent Ciji Pittman.

KIPP Columbus has made great strides since its inception in 2008; the Northeast Columbus school began with 50 students in fifth grade and now teaches more than 2,000 from infancy to high school, with nearly 1,500 children on its waitlist. Its partnerships with local organizations like Battelle, the YMCA of Central Ohio and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio allow the campus to develop; with an expansion in the works, the school aims to educate almost 4,000 students through 12th grade annually in the coming years.

Like many area schools, college preparation is a high priority; the KIPP Forward program (formerly known as KIPP Through College) ensures that KIPP students go to and through college. In 2020, the high school celebrated its first class of graduating seniors, boasting a 100 percent graduation rate and 100 percent college acceptance rate.

"We want students to really tap into the passions that they have, and we believe it's our responsibility to cultivate those," Pittman says. "And then we are also ensuring that you're equipped with the skills, academically and socially, to be successful."

**"WE CREATE JOYFUL, ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT SCHOOLS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS WITH THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE THE PATH THEY CHOOSE—COLLEGE, CAREER AND BEYOND—SO THEY CAN LEAD FULFILLING LIVES AND CREATE A MORE JUST WORLD."**

**CIJI PITTMAN**

KIPP Columbus | Superintendent





# FINDING CHILD CARE

A guide to Ohio's daycare settings and school-based programs

Ohio's child care programs are regulated by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Education. The two agencies have a quality rating system called Step Up To Quality, or SUTQ, to help parents find the care options that best meet their children's needs.

SUTQ evaluates child care programs based on four main criteria: learning and development, staff qualifications and professional development, administrative and leadership practices, and family and community partnerships. Programs are awarded one to five stars based on how well they meet specific goals in each category.

"Parents need options that give them the confidence to leave their child in a safe and nurturing environment while going to work to support their family," says Dasia Clemente, public information officer for ODJFS. "Under Ohio's system, parents have a wide choice of child care options to meet their specific needs and the tools necessary to help them find which of those options is best."

ODJFS licenses three main types of care options: child care centers, Type A homes and

Type B homes. Most traditional daycares fall into the child care center category. They often consist of a dedicated building, though centers can be housed in a personal residence in some cases.

In a Type A home, the provider cares for seven to 12 children in his or her own residence, with some restrictions. Type B homes serve one to six children in the provider's own home; no more than three of the children may be under 2 years old. Unlike the previous two options, ODJFS licensure is optional for Type B homes.

The Ohio Department of Education licenses school-based programs for preschool and school-age children. Typically referred to as early care and education programs, they can include care before, during and after regular school hours.

Clemente encourages parents to use the searchable database that ODJFS offers to find a provider based on location, SUTQ rating, child's age and more.

Another helpful resource, the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association, provides direct support to families in the form of information, a searchable database and more through its regional resource and referral agencies.

**"PARENTS NEED OPTIONS THAT GIVE THEM THE CONFIDENCE TO LEAVE THEIR CHILD IN A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHILE GOING TO WORK TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY."**

**DASIA CLEMENTE**

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Public Information Officer

## CHILD CARE ONLINE RESOURCES

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Searchable Database  
[childcaresearch.ohio.gov](http://childcaresearch.ohio.gov)

Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association  
[occrra.org](http://occrra.org)

Step Up To Quality  
[stepuptoquality.org](http://stepuptoquality.org)

# ADVANCED LEARNING

With nearly 60 college and university campuses, Columbus has learning options for virtually every student.

NOTE: Tuition data is for undergraduate Ohio residents for the 2022-23 academic year and does not include miscellaneous fees, room or board, unless otherwise noted. Enrollment data is as of the start of the 2022-23 school year, unless otherwise noted.



## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

### THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT** 65,795 (all campuses),  
60,540 (Columbus campus)



**TUITION** including basic fees  
\$12,485 (Columbus campus)

281 W. Lane Ave., Columbus • 614-292-4664, [osu.edu](https://osu.edu)

As one of the biggest and most comprehensive colleges in the country, The Ohio State University is creating experiences that bring together expertise, ideas and resources that improve communities locally and globally. With campuses and research centers throughout the state, the institution's unrivaled depth and breadth is advancing innovation, healthcare and research within Ohio's communities. For more than 150 years, Ohio State has been inspiring the next generation of leaders, discovering groundbreaking medical breakthroughs and finding solutions to the problems the world is facing now.

Regularly honored as one of the nation's top 20 public universities, Ohio State also has a top-rated academic medical center and a premier cancer hospital and research center. Academic offerings are likewise highly touted and diverse. Ohio State offers more than 200 majors and programs—plus 500 specializations—for undergraduates to explore, in addition to more than 230 master's, doctoral and professional degree programs and an estimated 12,000 course offerings. *U.S. News & World Report*, in fact, ranked 66 of Ohio State's graduate programs in the top 25 of their respective fields in the U.S. in 2021. In similar fashion, *The Wall Street Journal* ranked the university 12th in the nation for most sought-after graduates.



### OHIO UNIVERSITY



#### ENROLLMENT

Dublin: 381 (graduate and medical students with Dublin as primary campus);  
Lancaster: 898 (undergraduate students with Lancaster as primary campus)



#### TUITION per credit hour

Dublin: \$334–\$602 (graduate programs);  
\$697–\$993 (medical program up to eight credit hours); Lancaster: \$269 (undergraduate)

6805 Bobcat Way, Dublin; 614-793-5634  
1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster; 740-654-6711  
[ohio.edu](https://ohio.edu)

Founded in Athens in 1804, Ohio University has the distinction of being the oldest public university in the state. It reaches the Central Ohio area through the Lancaster campus and the Integrated Education Center in Dublin. Students can complete 11 associate and 12 bachelor's degrees at the Lancaster campus, or begin at the regional campus and relocate to Athens to complete any of 250 programs of study. The Dublin Center offers master's and doctorate programs in health sciences, osteopathic medicine, public administration and business; Columbus State Community College also has classrooms in the building.



## PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

### ASHLAND UNIVERSITY



#### ENROLLMENT

Not available



#### TUITION

\$26,340 (undergraduate),  
\$440-\$900/credit hour (graduate),  
\$755-\$995/credit hour (doctorate)

8050 N. High St., Suite 190, Columbus  
614-794-4850, [ashland.edu](http://ashland.edu)

Ashland University is a mid-sized, private university founded in 1878 that values the individual student and offers an educational experience that combines strong academic programs with faculty and staff who build nurturing relationships with students. The university's Columbus Center offers coursework toward selected bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as administrative licensure programs and workforce development opportunities. The main campus is located about 80 miles northeast of Columbus.



### CAPITAL UNIVERSITY



#### ENROLLMENT

2,716



**TUITION** \$39,900 (undergraduate), \$540-\$1,415/credit hour  
(graduate and adult education)

1 College and Main, Bexley • 614-236-6101, [capital.edu](http://capital.edu)

Capital combines personal attention with a balanced liberal arts and professional studies education. Since its founding by the Lutheran Church in 1830 and charter as a university in 1850, Capital has been an agent in shaping engaged citizens and purposeful leaders who improve their industries, communities and society. The private, four-year undergraduate and graduate school is located in the charming, tree-lined suburb of Bexley, just east of downtown Columbus. With more than 60 majors and six graduate programs, noteworthy programs include business, education, music and nursing. Its prestigious law school is based in downtown Columbus, while its Trinity Lutheran Seminary on the main campus offers master's programs in divinity, theological studies, youth and family ministry, and sacred theology.

### COLUMBUS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN



#### ENROLLMENT

1,000



**TUITION** \$37,650

60 Cleveland Ave., Columbus  
614-224-9101, [ccad.edu](http://ccad.edu)

Columbus College of Art & Design teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the midst of a thriving creative community in downtown Columbus. Founded in 1879, CCAD is one of the oldest private, nonprofit art and design colleges in the United States. CCAD offers 11 BFA programs, a Master of Fine Arts and a Master of Professional Studies in Retail Design that produce graduates equipped to shape culture and business at the highest level. They're often picked up by national brands, from locally based Abercrombie & Fitch to Pixar in California. A new master's program in user experience (UX) design is being created for the 2023-24 school year in response to demand for graduates in that field.



## DENISON UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
2,300



**TUITION** \$60,000

100 W. College St., Granville  
740-587-0810, [denison.edu](http://denison.edu)

Denison University, a private, liberal arts college, features more than 60 rigorous academic programs that blend cutting-edge majors with a broad-based curriculum. Denison takes pride in undergraduate professional development through career-focused coaching, real-world experiences and life-changing connections. The 931-acre campus sits atop "The Hill" in the New England-style village of Granville, just 25 minutes from Columbus.



## FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
8,036



**TUITION** *per credit hour*  
\$398 (undergraduate), \$670 (graduate),  
\$748 (doctorate)

201 S. Grant Ave., Columbus  
614-797-4700, [franklin.edu](http://franklin.edu)

Founded in 1902 and recognized for its accessibility, affordability and academics, Franklin University is one of the largest private universities in Ohio. From its main campus in downtown Columbus to its convenient online classes, Franklin University is popular with adult students and working professionals. Franklin offers associate, undergraduate and graduate programs—including its 12-month, accredited MBA program—through on-site and online course options. Five applied doctorate offerings provide the highest level of technical, technological, research, communication and leadership skills. The university also offers microcredentials and undergraduate- and graduate-level certificates for adaptive professionals looking to deepen their knowledge or qualify for industry certification.

## KENYON COLLEGE



**ENROLLMENT**  
1,887



**TUITION**  
\$66,240

106 College-Park St., Gambier  
740-427-5000, [kenyon.edu](http://kenyon.edu)

Founded in 1824, Kenyon is the oldest private college in Ohio and the first institution in the U.S. to implement the model of faculty members serving as academic advisers. With a curriculum rooted in the liberal arts, Kenyon students and faculty aspire to a nuanced understanding of the world and all who inhabit it. Kenyon is a top producer of Fulbright Fellows and ranks second among Division III institutions for fostering NCAA Postgraduate Scholars. Home to the *Kenyon Review*, one of the nation's most esteemed literary magazines, Kenyon celebrates a rich literary tradition that promotes writing across academic disciplines.



## METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO



**ENROLLMENT**  
141



**TUITION** *per credit hour*  
\$1,018 (master's programs)

3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware  
740-363-1146, [mtso.edu](http://mtso.edu)

Founded in April 1958, the Methodist Theological School in Ohio is a graduate theological school and seminary located on 80 hillside acres north of Columbus. MTSO provides master's degrees in divinity, social justice, theological studies and practical theology, as well as a doctorate of ministry. Methodist Theological also offers a degree specialization in ecology and justice and is the home of the certified organic Seminary Hill Farm, which provides fresh food for campus meals, people in need and members of a community-supported agriculture program.



## MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE OF NURSING



**ENROLLMENT**  
766



**TUITION, 2021-22**  
\$13,290-\$34,040

127 S. Davis Ave., Columbus  
614-234-5800, [mccn.edu](http://mccn.edu)

MCCN was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1903 with a mission of providing a top-notch nursing education in a way that's "caring, respectful and socially responsible," according to its website. It offers a bachelor's of science in nursing, a master's of science and a doctorate of nursing practice, in addition to the online RN-BSN Completion Program and the Second Degree Accelerated Program.

## MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
1,942



**TUITION**  
per semester: \$16,959

800 Martinsburg Road, Mount  
Vernon • 740-397-9000, [mvnu.edu](http://mvnu.edu)

Mount Vernon Nazarene University was founded in 1968 and is a liberal arts university with a Christian foundation and mission. MVNU has five different schools of training, including the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of Christian Ministry, the Jetter School of Professional Studies, the School of Natural and Social Sciences, and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Together they offer traditional on-campus programs for undergraduate students and online undergraduate and graduate programs for working adults.

## OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
3,000 (appx.)



**TUITION** per credit hour:  
\$300-\$990 (undergraduate), \$400-\$530 (graduate)

1476 Lancaster Pike, Circleville • 877-762-8669, [ohiochristian.edu](http://ohiochristian.edu)

Founded in 1948 as the Circleville Bible College to educate the clergy for the Churches of Christ in Christian Union, Ohio Christian University has since expanded its outreach. The school now offers nearly 40 associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs and more than 30 minors and certificate programs. In 2017, the university added a new young adult childhood education degree to its undergraduate offerings and opened the Business Innovation Center, a small business incubator and research center.

*Image credits: Dreamstime.com (2)*

## OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
1,280



**TUITION**  
per semester: \$16,390

1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus  
614-251-4500, [ohiodominican.edu](http://ohiodominican.edu)

Founded in 1911 as the all-female College of St. Mary of the Springs, Ohio Dominican University has a rich, longstanding history of excellence. The liberal arts school became co-ed in 1964 and changed its name to Ohio Dominican College in 1968. In 2002, the school became a university and began offering graduate-level programs. Central Ohio's only Catholic university, Ohio Dominican currently offers more than 40 undergraduate majors, nine master's programs and a wide range of affordable and fully online programs for working professionals. ODU's 75-acre, tree-lined campus is located 10 minutes from downtown Columbus, giving students easy access to internships and a wide range of professional opportunities prior to graduation.





## OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
1,410



**TUITION**  
\$49,962

61 S. Sandusky St., Delaware  
740-368-2000, [owu.edu](http://owu.edu)

Founded in 1842, Ohio Wesleyan University is one of the nation's premier liberal arts universities. Located north of Columbus in Delaware, the private university offers more than 70 undergraduate majors and competes in 24 NCAA Division III varsity sports. Through its signature experience, the OWU Connection, Ohio Wesleyan teaches students to "think big" (understand issues from multiple academic perspectives), "do good" (volunteer to help others), "go global" (gain international perspective) and "get real" (translate classroom knowledge into real-world experience through internships, research and other hands-on learning). Typically, 99 percent of OWU students receive merit-based and/or need-based financial aid. Ohio Wesleyan is featured in the book "Colleges That Change Lives" and included on the *U.S. News & World Report* and *Princeton Review* of "best colleges" lists.

## PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM



**ENROLLMENT** 60



**TUITION** \$25,334-\$30,707

7625 N. High St., Columbus  
614-885-5585, [pcj.edu](http://pcj.edu)

Founded in 1888, the Pontifical College Josephinum is a Roman Catholic seminary whose mission is to prepare men for the ordained priesthood. It comprises a College of Liberal Arts and School of Theology. Today, nearly 2,000 ordained alumni serve in 48 U.S. states and 18 foreign countries. In addition, the Josephinum Diaconate Institute offers formation and continuing education for permanent deacons and laity.



## OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY



**ENROLLMENT**  
2,800 (appx.)



**TUITION**  
\$33,824

1 S. Grove St., Westerville  
614-890-3000, [otterbein.edu](http://otterbein.edu)

Founded by the Church of the United Brethren in Christ in 1847, Otterbein was the first institution in the country to include women as faculty members and students. The university also admitted students of color before the Civil War and welcomed Japanese-American students who had been sent to internment camps during World War II. Otterbein's list of achievements has only grown since, with many rankings as one of the best in the country for veterans, regional universities and community service, among other distinctions. Located in Westerville, Otterbein offers more than 60 majors and 40 minors, nine graduate programs in six areas of study and a doctorate of nursing practice degree.





## TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS

### CENTRAL OHIO TECHNICAL COLLEGE



**ENROLLMENT** 2,568



**TUITION** per credit hour: \$209

1179 University Drive, Newark  
740-366-1351, [cotc.edu](http://cotc.edu)

Central Ohio Technical College provides close-to-home solutions for Central Ohioans to train for a new career, upskill or start a bachelor's degree. COTC was founded in 1971 and now has four campus locations: the flagship campus in Newark and three extended campuses in Mount Vernon, Coshocton and Pataskala. COTC awards associate's degrees and certificates leading to employment in high-demand career fields, including business, engineering technology, IT, healthcare and public safety. COTC also offers transfer degrees that extend to a bachelor's degree at Ohio's colleges and universities. All students receive free academic, personal and wraparound support services. Transfer, military and prior learning credit is awarded. New class cohorts begin five times per year and are available on-campus, online and in hybrid formats.



### COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**ENROLLMENT**  
45,000 (appx., includes  
part-time students)



**TUITION**  
\$5,038

550 E. Spring St., Columbus  
614-287-5353, [csc.edu](http://csc.edu)

Columbus State Community College has grown immensely from an initial enrollment of 67 students in 1963 to a bustling, thriving higher education option for about 27,000 full-time students. The main campus sits on more than 80 acres on the edge of downtown Columbus; an additional Delaware campus opened in 2010. Additionally, Columbus State operates four Regional Learning Centers in Dublin, Reynoldsburg, Bolton Field and Westerville. Columbus State has degree offerings and career programs in more than 55 areas of business, health and medical, public service, engineering and skilled trades, and more. Students can complete their first two years of a bachelor's degree at the school through its College of Arts and Science, then complete the degree elsewhere with the Bachelor's Degree Transfer Program.

### MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE



**ENROLLMENT**  
2,700



**TUITION**  
\$5,200

1467 Mount Vernon Ave., Marion  
740-389-4636, [mtc.edu](http://mtc.edu)

For more than 50 years, Marion Technical College has been helping online and on-campus students achieve their next goals. Marion Tech offers associate's degrees in arts and science, business, engineering, IT, healthcare and public service. The college also offers short-term certificates and customized training solutions. Located on a 180-acre campus just off State Route 95 in Marion, the college is co-located with The Ohio State University at Marion.



## CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTERS

### Adult & Community Education, Columbus City Schools

2323 Lexington Ave., Columbus  
614-365-6000  
[ccsoh.us/ace](http://ccsoh.us/ace)

#### Specialties:

Practical nursing, commercial HVACR, state tested nursing assistant, phlebotomy, MOS credentials and contracted training for businesses. Free classes include English speakers of other languages (ESOL), high school equivalency (GED/HiSET), Adult Diploma Program, and 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program

### Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County

150 Price Road, Newark  
740-364-2333  
[c-tec.edu](http://c-tec.edu)

#### Specialties:

Multi-craft maintenance, heavy truck equipment mechanics, structural and pipe welding, general and CNC machining, HVAC, healthcare, IT/computer technology

### Delaware Area Career Center

4565 Columbus Pike, Delaware  
740-548-0708  
[delawareareacc.org](http://delawareareacc.org)

#### Specialties:

Public safety, technical programs, fire-service training, law enforcement, digital design, nurse aid training, English speakers of other languages (ESOL), high school equivalency (GED/ASPIRE)

### Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools

#### District

4300 Amalgamated Place,  
Groveport  
614-836-4530

#### Eastland Career Center

4465 S. Hamilton Road,  
Groveport  
614-836-5725

#### Fairfield Career Center

3985 Coonpath Road NW,  
Carroll  
614-837-9443  
[eastland-fairfield.com](http://eastland-fairfield.com)

#### Specialties:

HVAC, welding, dental and medical assisting programs

### Knox County Career Center

306 Martinsburg Road,  
Mount Vernon  
740-397-5820  
[knoxcc.org](http://knoxcc.org)

#### Specialties:

Healthcare (e.g., massage therapy, practical nursing), industrial (e.g., automotive technician, HVAC-R), services (e.g., cosmetology, public safety) and business (e.g., IT, computer systems and networking)

### Ohio Hi-Point Career Center

2280 State Route 540,  
Bellefontaine  
937-599-3010  
[ohiohipoint.com](http://ohiohipoint.com)

#### Specialties:

Accounting, business and management, education, healthcare, legal, sales and marketing, writing and publishing, web and computer programming, GED/ABE

### Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center

895 Crouse Chapel Road,  
Chillicothe  
740-642-1288  
[pickawayross.com](http://pickawayross.com)

#### Specialties:

Career-development programs in healthcare, public safety and the trades; Pickaway-Ross Adult Education's Aspire serves individuals aged 17 and older who want to strengthen their skills in reading, writing and/or math to enter employment, post-secondary training or prepare for the GED or WorkKeys tests.



### Tolles Career & Technical Center

7877 U.S. Hwy. 42 S,  
Plain City  
614-873-4666  
[tollestech.com](http://tollestech.com)

#### Specialties:

RAMTEC (robotics and advanced manufacturing industry certifications), firefighting and EMT training, accounting, finance, healthcare, English speakers of other languages (ESOL), high school equivalency (GED)

### Tri-Rivers Career Center & Center of Adult Education

2222 Marion-Mount  
Gilead Road, Marion  
740-389-4681  
[tririvers.com](http://tririvers.com)  
[ramtecohio.com](http://ramtecohio.com)

#### Specialties:

Nursing, industrial maintenance, computer training, RAMTEC (robotics and advanced manufacturing industry certifications), welding, fire-service, EMT





## SAEED JONES

### Poet and essayist

Why Columbus? I can usually hear the question coming a few sentences before it arrives. People, old friends and new, Twitter followers and digital passersby, journalists interviewing me about my new book, want to know. To say nothing of proud Ohioans. So, whenever asked (and OK, often when not asked) I happily rhapsodize about the town I up and moved to after living in New York City for almost a decade. I go into “I swear no one is paying me to say this” mode. “Why Columbus?” you ask? How much time do you have?

Because, seemingly overnight, the vibrant energy of New York City became the relentless and expensive anxiety of New York City.

Because, in October 2018, I visited Columbus, Ohio, for work. One morning, I left my hotel and walked into a McDonald’s to get a breakfast sandwich and a group of old Black men sat at a table, reading newspapers, drinking coffee and laughing. Deep, Black laughter. Hearty laughter. The way Black people laugh in Toni Morrison novels. When they saw me, they let their chuckles settle and said, “Good morning, young man,” almost in unison. I smiled and politely nodded. The young man at the register was just as warm, just as Black, as was his coworker. I remembered then that Toni Morrison was from Ohio and thought, “Black people have been happy here for quite some time.”

Because in September 2019, I moved into the nicest apartment I’ve ever lived in, and I pay \$1,400 a month for rent. Because

the first month was half off. Because the building has fancy amenities. Because my neighborhood is hip and fun and really gay and really walkable.

Because when I say, “Columbus is really gay,” I mean queer people walk down the street here holding hands. Because, once, I was eating lunch in a café and a drag queen walked by in a gold glittery gown and gold glittery platform shoes and it was barely noon. Because it was a Tuesday.

Because Hanif [Abdurraqib] is here, writing and happy. Because Eloisa [Amezcuca] is here, writing and happy. Because Maggie [Smith] is here, writing and happy. Because Dionne [Custer Edwards] is here, writing and happy. Because those are just some writers and poets I’ve befriended in the month I’ve lived in Columbus. Because I’ve already fallen in love with three different bookstores in Columbus. Because one of them is just a few blocks from my apartment and knows my name and makes me feel welcome.

Because I grew up in Texas with football culture and, growing up, that culture terrified me and made me feel incredibly unwelcome. Because Buckeye fans are wildly earnest and excited and nice. Because tailgating is fun. Because going to night games is fun.

Because when I yell “O-H” and some stranger yells back “I-O” and we burst out laughing with pride as we go on about our day, it’s not just about college football or the famed “Columbus nice” culture, it’s about knowing that—seemingly against all odds, against the most antagonistic parts of my self—I have yet again made a home for myself in this burning world. And when I say, “This is my home,” my home says, “You’re damn right.”

*Excerpted, with permission, from “Columbus, Ohio Is My Home,” first published in October 2019 via Werk In Progress, Saeed Jones’ Substack newsletter*

*Image credit: Tim Johnson*



# HEALTHCARE IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

## 05.

“COLUMBUS IS A VIBRANT, BUSTLING, BOOMING CITY, AND I LOVE IT. ... THERE ARE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES TO HAVE HERE IN COLUMBUS THAN THERE ARE IN MOST OTHER PLACES.”

**JESS HELLMICH**

Dueling Axes | Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer

*Moved here in 2011 from San Diego, California*

### COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

IN THIS SECTION

- 76 Healthcare Systems
- 78 Directory of Resources
- 82 Finding a Provider

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OHIOHEALTH SYSTEM  
FACILITIES IN THE  
REGION, INCLUDING  
70 PRIMARY CARE  
OFFICES AND NINE  
URGENT CARES



260

OSU WEXNER MEDICAL  
CENTER FACILITIES,  
INCLUDING SEVEN  
HOSPITALS

# HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

The Columbus Region boasts four acclaimed healthcare systems with hundreds of facilities and myriad specialties. Each system is also working to expand its community outreach and better serve its patients.

Residents of the Columbus Region can take advantage of four nationally acclaimed healthcare systems: OhioHealth, Mount Carmel Health System, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Between them, they offer hundreds of facilities and a variety of specialties ranging from cancer care and medical research to behavioral health services and stroke care.

The OhioHealth hospital system is the largest in the Region with 414 facilities, including nearly 70 primary care offices and nine urgent cares. The not-for-profit, faith-based system is best known for stroke and cardiovascular care, earning awards for excellence in stroke treatment at three hospitals—Grant Medical Center, Marion General Hospital and Riverside Methodist Hospital—in 2014.

Dr. Michael Waite, vice president of quality and patient safety for OhioHealth, says the hospitals

monitor healthcare quality and safety closely to ensure that it's patient-centered.

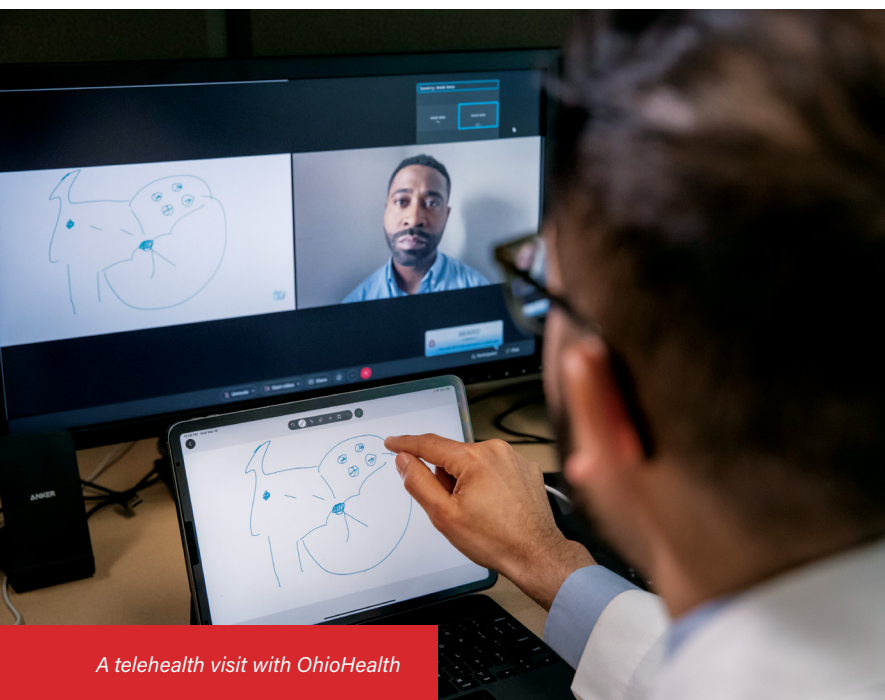
"We feel like we deliver the highest level of care and strive to be the safest place for people to receive care," he says.

A commitment to excellent patient care unifies each system in the Region, but Mount Carmel has more than just that in common with OhioHealth. The 135-year-old Catholic system is also renowned for its heart and vascular care, as well as its women's health program, emergency services and bariatric surgery; Mount Carmel East hospital, one of its 216 facilities (including four hospitals total), has dedicated heart and maternity centers on its campus. An affiliated higher education institution, Mount Carmel College of Nursing, offers the largest private BSN program in the state.

Making healthcare more accessible to patients is what motivates Mount Carmel Health, says Lorraine Lutton, the system's president and CEO. "Now and in the future, we will make sure access to our care is where our patients live and work, and [we will] maximize the use of technology to enhance the patient experience," she says.

As these systems continue to develop their in-hospital practices, they're also working to expand their imprint on surrounding communities by addressing social determinants of health like food insecurity, transportation concerns and housing insecurity. They're investing more resources into community outreach, forging more community partnerships and providing aid through health and wellness programs.

Known for its world-class cancer care and medical research, OSU Wexner Medical Center is widening its focus to tackle those determinants head-on, says Dr. Iahn Gonsenhauser, the system's chief of quality and patient safety. In addition to its plan to add ambulatory sites and an in-patient tower to its 260 facilities, the seven-hospital system has also partnered with the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to support its "Farmacy," a program that provides patients in need with nutritious foods.



A telehealth visit with OhioHealth

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## MOUNT CARMEL HEALTH SYSTEM FACILITIES IN THE REGION, INCLUDING FOUR HOSPITALS

"What we recognize is that healthcare and healthcare outcomes really start long before a patient ever sets foot in the hospital," he says. "My hope is that in the future, we're connecting with patients and communities at that point and helping them to build health plans and coordinated care plans that are preventative in nature and that address appropriately many of those social determinants."

These three hospital systems also conduct health assessments for their surrounding communities, determining what support the citizens they serve need most in order to lead the healthiest lives. A 2022 Mount Carmel East assessment for Franklin County cited racial equity, behavioral health and maternal-infant health as priority health needs.

Specializing in child and infant care and behavioral health, Nationwide Children's Hospital is an award-winning, pediatric care center that treats the youngest patients in 52 facilities across Central Ohio, including 12 primary care centers, six neonatal network locations and its flagship hospital.

The organization opened the Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion in 2020 to provide patients with dedicated psychiatric, developmental and psychological services for an array of conditions, from anxiety to autism spectrum disorder. (See "Prioritizing Mental Wellness," page 80.) It also supports more than 1,000 clinical research projects into subjects like genomics through the Abigail Wexner Research Institute.

Nationwide Children's prides itself on serving children regardless of families' ability to pay and its ongoing research into personalized medicine. It also runs 11 Children's Close to Home Centers, embedded in communities across Columbus, to provide children with accessible diagnostic and therapeutic services.

"Our goal is that every child should have the same access to healthcare and should have the opportunity to have the best outcome, and that's something that we firmly believe in," says Dr. Catherine Krawczeski, chief of the department of



Ohio State University mascots Brutus Buckeye at OSU Wexner Medical Center

pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Through the Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Family initiative, Nationwide Children's expands its reach to community members' homes. It partners with local organizations to help residents access affordable housing, educational opportunities, community-based health and wellness services, and economic development assistance.

OhioHealth and Mount Carmel have created several initiatives to better aid Columbus communities as well. The former introduced a mobile stroke unit to bring immediate, targeted care to patients, while the latter launched a community health and well-being program that helps members of low-income, underserved communities better access basic health services.

With a renewed focus on elevating community health and decades of medical innovation under their belts, Columbus' hospital systems feel more equipped than ever to serve their communities.

"Our role as a healthcare system is not just to provide healthcare when people need it, but actually to provide coordination with local partners and community partners to make sure that we're getting people the support that they need," Gonsenhaus says.

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## NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FACILITIES ACROSS CENTRAL OHIO, INCLUDING 12 PRIMARY CARE CENTERS AND SIX NEONATAL NETWORK LOCATIONS

# DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES

Your guide to many of Central Ohio's wide range of medical facilities

## Central Ohio Surgical Institute

6520 W. Campus Oval,  
New Albany; 614-413-2233  
[cosisurg.com](http://cosisurg.com)

Outpatient surgical center specializing in anesthesiology, dental work, ENT services, gastroenterology, gynecology, plastic surgery, podiatry and more

## Columbus Springs Hospitals

7625 Hospital Drive, Dublin;  
614-717-1800

2085 Citygate Drive,  
Columbus; 614-636-6246

6810 Perimeter Drive,  
Suite 100B, Dublin  
614-495-8840

1310 Hill Road N., Suite 104,  
Pickerington; 614-962-6488

[columbussprings.com](http://columbussprings.com)

Inpatient and outpatient mental health and addiction treatment; services vary by location

## Diley Ridge Medical Center

7911 Diley Road,  
Canal Winchester;  
614-838-7911

[dileyridgemedicalcenter.com](http://dileyridgemedicalcenter.com)

Community hospital and medical center with 24-hour emergency department; state-of-the art imaging center and clinical lab; women's, newborn and pediatric care and preventative health; and an attached Nationwide Children's Close to Home Center; affiliate of Mount Carmel Health System and Fairfield Medical Center

## Dublin Surgery Center

5005 Parkcenter Ave., Dublin;  
614-932-9548

[dublinsurgicalcenter.com](http://dublinsurgicalcenter.com)

Outpatient surgical center offering gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, pain management, plastic surgery, podiatry, proctology, spine surgery, robotic surgery and urology

## Fairfield Medical Center

401 N. Ewing St., Lancaster;  
740-687-8000

[fmchealth.org](http://fmchealth.org)

High-level medical center with emergency and urgent care departments, maternity care, outpatient therapy services, surgical services and cancer care

## Knox Community Hospital

1330 Coshocton Road,  
Mount Vernon;  
800-393-9000

[kch.org](http://kch.org)

Full-service hospital



## Knox Community Hospital — Centerburg Health & Wellness

3595 Columbus Road,  
Centerburg; 740-625-6234

[kch.org](http://kch.org)

Health facility with primary and specialty care services, including cardiology, orthopedics, women's care, physical therapy, lab and imaging

## Madison Health Hospital

210 N. Main St., London;  
740-845-7000

[madison-health.com](http://madison-health.com)

Full-service hospital

## Mary Rutan Hospital

205 E. Palmer Ave.,  
Bellefontaine; 937-592-4015

[maryrutan.org](http://maryrutan.org)

Full-service hospital

## Morrow County Hospital

651 W. Marion Road, Mount  
Gilead; 419-946-5015

[morrowcountyhospital.com](http://morrowcountyhospital.com)

Hospital with emergency department, urgent care, surgical services, sleep lab and rehabilitation services; managed by OhioHealth

## Ohio Hospital for Psychiatry

880 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus  
844-702-4171

[ohiohospitalforpsychiatry.com](http://ohiohospitalforpsychiatry.com)

Inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment

## Select Specialty Hospitals of Columbus

1087 Dennison Ave., Columbus  
614-458-9000

181 Taylor Ave., Sixth Floor,  
Columbus; 614-685-1703

1430 S. High St., Columbus;  
614-456-0300

2000 Tamarack Road, Second  
Floor, Newark; 220-564-2600

[selectspecialtyhospitals.com](http://selectspecialtyhospitals.com)

Long-term acute care hospitals

## Shepherd Hill

200 Messimer Drive, Newark;  
220-564-4877

[shepherdhill.net](http://shepherdhill.net)

Inpatient and outpatient mental health and addiction treatment

## Taylor Station Surgical Center

275 Taylor Station Road,  
Building A and B, Columbus;  
614-751-4466

[taylorstation.com](http://taylorstation.com)

Outpatient surgical center specializing in colorectal surgery, ENT, gastroenterology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery

## Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare

2200 W. Broad St.,  
Columbus;  
614-752-0333;  
877-275-6364 (toll-free)

[mha.ohio.gov](http://mha.ohio.gov)

Inpatient mental health treatment

## LICKING MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM

*lmhealth.org*

### Licking Memorial Hospital

1320 W. Main St., Newark;  
220-564-4000

Full-service hospital

### Licking Memorial Hospital – Tamarack

2000 Tamarack Road, Newark

Medical campus with lab services, sleep medicine, outpatient surgery, and pain, wound and ophthalmology clinics

### Pataskala Health Campus

1 Healthy Place, Pataskala

Multidisciplinary medical campus with offices offering family medicine, dermatology, ultrasound and lab services, physical therapy, urgent care, women's health, vascular surgery and more

## MEMORIAL HEALTH

*memorialohio.com*

### Memorial Allen Medical Center

660 London Ave., Marysville;  
937-578-4377

Medical center with dermatology, internal medicine, lab, and pain management services

### Memorial City Gate Medical Center

120 Coleman's Crossing Blvd., Marysville; 937-578-7841

Medical center with urgent care, laboratory and imaging; also offering physical and occupational therapy, orthopedics and sports medicine

### Memorial Damascus Medical Center

388 Damascus Road, Marysville; 937-578-4032

Medical center with family medicine, urology, lab, imaging and podiatry services

### Memorial Hospital

500 London Ave., Marysville;  
937-644-6115

Full-service hospital

### Memorial Outpatient Surgery Center

122 Professional Parkway, Marysville;  
937-578-7900

Outpatient surgical center with pain management and general and colorectal surgical services

### Memorial Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine—Plain City

900 Village Blvd., Plain City;  
614-504-7145

Medical center with physical and occupational therapy, sports medicine and lab services

### Memorial Wound Care

483 Coleman's Crossing Blvd., Marysville;  
937-578-4325

Medical center with wound care and hyperbaric treatment services

## MOUNT CARMEL HEALTH SYSTEM

*mountcarmelhealth.com*

### Mount Carmel East

6001 E. Broad St., Columbus;  
614-234-6000

Full-service hospital

### Mount Carmel Lewis Center

7100 Graphics Way, Lewis Center; 740-953-4444

Health campus with emergency department, imaging, rehabilitation, primary care physicians, laboratory, occupational health, women's health and fitness center

### Mount Carmel Grove City

5300 N. Meadows Drive, Grove City; 614-663-5000

Full-service hospital

### Mount Carmel New Albany

7333 Smith's Mill Road, New Albany; 614-775-6600

Specialty hospital focused on inpatient and outpatient care, with orthopedic, neurologic and musculoskeletal services

### Mount Carmel St. Ann's

500 S. Cleveland Ave., Columbus; 380-898-4000

Full-service hospital and regional medical center

### Mount Carmel Hilliard

4674 Britton Parkway, Hilliard; 614-210-4500

Health campus with heart care, imaging, occupational health, rehab services, primary care physicians and women's health

### Mount Carmel Reynoldsburg

2300 Baltimore-Reynoldsburg Road, Reynoldsburg;  
614-234-1400

Medical complex including 24-hour emergency department and primary care offices

*Mount Carmel Grove City*



### NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

*[nationwidechildrens.org](http://nationwidechildrens.org)*

#### **Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion**

444 Butterfly Gardens Drive,  
Columbus; 614-722-2000

Pediatric inpatient and outpatient mental and behavioral health services, including crisis and prevention services

#### **Child Development and Autism Centers**

187 W. Shrock Road,  
Westerville; 614-355-7500

Pediatric behavioral health center for autism spectrum disorders

#### **Nationwide Children's Hospital**

700 Children's Drive,  
Columbus; 614-722-2000  
Full-service pediatric hospital

#### **Nationwide Children's Hospital Outpatient Surgery Center**

700 Children's Drive,  
Columbus; 614-722-2920

Outpatient surgical center specializing in general, cardiothoracic, neuro, orthopedic and plastic surgeries, hematology and oncology services

#### **Nationwide Children's Hospital Westerville Surgery Center**

455 Executive Campus Drive,  
Westerville; 614-355-6100

Outpatient surgical center specializing in orthopedic and plastic surgery and ENT, dental, gastroenterology, urology and other pediatric surgeries



## PRIORITIZING MENTAL WELLNESS

The statistics are dire: Suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-14 in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender have higher rates of suicidal thoughts and behavior, and are four times more likely to attempt suicide, when compared to their heterosexual peers. Even so, most children don't get the critical care and treatment they need. That's why Nationwide Children's Hospital has beefed up efforts to serve and support children with mental health needs and their families.

With the creation of On Our Sleeves in 2018, Nationwide Children's Hospital, which encompasses one of the largest networks of pediatric behavioral health treatment providers and researchers in the country, began working to break stigmas around child mental health by providing resources to every community across the country. Since launching, On Our Sleeves has reached over 2 million people with free educational resources.

In addition to programmatic efforts, Nationwide Children's is also home to the groundbreaking Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion, where a team of health

professionals provide care for patients and families in crisis. Its tagline—transforming children's mental health through an unprecedented community commitment—conveys just how unique it is. The nation's largest pediatric medical campus facility that's dedicated solely to child and adolescent behavioral and mental health was made possible by a \$50 million donation from Columbus-based retailer, Big Lots, and its Foundation. Its Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit is a 16-bed facility intended to provide short-term, three- to five-day intensive youth mental health treatment. Coordinated access to clinicians, psychiatrists, nurses, therapeutic recreation and support for parents all work together to examine the causes for admittance and provide children in need with immediate care and future coping skills.



**SINCE LAUNCHING, ON OUR SLEEVES HAS REACHED OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE WITH FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.**

## OHIO HEALTH

ohiohealth.com

**OhioHealth  
Berger Hospital**600 N. Pickaway St.,  
Circleville; 740-474-2126

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth  
Doctors Hospital**5100 W. Broad St.,  
Columbus; 614-544-1000

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth Dublin  
Methodist Hospital**7500 Hospital Drive, Dublin;  
614-544-8000

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth Eastside  
Health Center**4850 E. Main St.,  
Columbus; 614-566-0899Outpatient medical center  
with Mothers' Milk Bank and  
rehabilitation, imaging and  
lab services**OhioHealth Grady  
Memorial Hospital**561 W. Central Ave.,  
Delaware; 740-615-1000

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth  
Emergency Care**3880 Fishinger Blvd., Hilliard;  
614-788-93105868 N. Hamilton Road,  
New Albany; 614-788-9350  
(inside OhioHealth Hondros  
Health Center)4335 Alum Creek Drive, Obetz;  
614-788-93304141 N. Hampton Drive, Powell;  
614-788-93406960 E. Main St.,  
Reynoldsburg; 614-788-932024/7 freestanding emergency  
departments**OhioHealth Grant  
Medical Center**111 S. Grant Ave., Columbus;  
614-566-9000High-level hospital and  
Level 1 trauma center with  
emergency department,  
specialized trauma care,  
surgical services, Bone &  
Joint Center, behavioral health  
services, brain and spine care,  
cancer care, fitness center,  
limb reconstruction services,  
maternity services, palliative  
and pastoral care, and  
rehabilitation services**OhioHealth  
Grove City  
Methodist Hospital**1375 Stringtown Road,  
Grove City; 614-788-1000Hospital with 26 beds, 24/7  
emergency department and  
surgical center**OhioHealth  
Knightsbridge  
Surgery Center**4845 Knightsbridge Blvd.,  
Ste. 110, Columbus;  
614-273-0400Outpatient surgical center  
with general, colorectal and  
plastic surgery; neurosurgery;  
and gastroenterologic,  
gynecologic and urologic  
services**OhioHealth Lewis  
Center Health Center**7853 Pacer Drive, Delaware;  
614-788-9000Medical center with emergency  
care for all ages (in partner-  
ship with Nationwide Children's  
Hospital) and imaging, rehab-  
ilitation and lab services**OhioHealth Marion  
General Hospital**1000 McKinley Park Drive,  
Marion; 740-383-8400

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth Marion  
Medical Campus**1040 Delaware Ave., Marion;  
740-383-8000Outpatient medical center with  
Anticoagulation Clinic, imaging,  
physical and occupational  
therapy, laboratory services,  
surgical services, heart and  
vascular care, and women's  
health services**OhioHealth  
Pickerington  
Medical Campus**1010-1030 Refugee Road,  
Pickerington; 614-788-4000Outpatient medical center  
with 24-hour emergency  
department, primary  
care, imaging, fitness  
classes, women's health  
services, rehabilitation and  
occupational therapy**OhioHealth  
Rehabilitation Hospital**1087 Dennison Ave.,  
Columbus; 614-484-9600Rehabilitation services for  
neurology, orthopedics, stroke  
and general rehabilitation**OhioHealth Riverside  
Methodist Hospital**3535 Olentangy River Road,  
Columbus; 614-566-5000

Full-service hospital

**OhioHealth  
Riverside Outpatient  
Surgery Center**2240 North Bank Drive,  
Columbus; 614-442-6515Outpatient surgical center  
with general, orthopedic and  
plastic surgery and obstetric,  
gynecologic, ophthalmologic  
and urologic services**OhioHealth  
Westerville Medical  
Campus**300 Polaris Parkway,  
Westerville; 614-533-3000Outpatient medical center  
with 24-hour emergency  
department, primary care,  
physical therapy, surgical  
services, imaging and  
women's health services

OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

wexnermedical.osu.edu

### Brain and Spine Hospital

300 W. 10th Ave., Columbus;  
614-366-7744

Specialty hospital focusing  
on neurological care

### Dodd Rehabilitation Hospital

480 Medical Center Drive,  
Columbus; 614-293-5275

Specialty hospital with  
inpatient and outpatient  
rehabilitation care for stroke,  
brain and spinal cord

### Eye and Ear Institute

915 Olentangy River Road,  
Columbus; 614-293-8116

Home to a variety of healthcare  
services including the Haverer  
Eye Institute, hand and upper  
extremity, urology, plastic  
surgery, dermatology, and ear,  
nose and throat (ENT)

### OSU Harding Hospital

1670 Upham Drive, Columbus;  
614-293-9600

Inpatient and outpatient  
care and treatment for  
mental health

### Ohio State Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute

2835 Fred Taylor Drive #2000,  
Columbus; 614-293-3600

Specialty medical facility focu-  
sing on sports medicine and  
orthopedic immediate care, with  
on-site immediate care clinic

### Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

460 W. 10th Ave., Columbus;  
800-293-5066  
[cancer.osu.edu](http://cancer.osu.edu)

Specialty hospital and  
research facility focusing  
on cancer care

### Ohio State Outpatient Care Upper Arlington

1800 Zollinger Road,  
Columbus; 614-293-3200

Outpatient services including  
arthritis and rheumatology,  
behavioral health, cardiac  
rehabilitation, women's health  
and dentistry, plus a walk-in  
care clinic



OSU's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

### Ohio State Outpatient Care Gahanna

920 N. Hamilton Road,  
Gahanna; 614-366-0375

Outpatient services including  
cardiovascular care, imaging  
and lab services, neurology,  
orthopedics, podiatry,  
mammography, rheumatology  
and sports medicine

### Ohio State Outpatient Care New Albany

6100 N. Hamilton Road,  
Westerville; 614-814-8100

Medical services including  
advanced imaging, X-rays,  
CT and lab work, physical  
therapy, cancer diagnosis and  
screening, outpatient surgery  
and procedures, pharmacy,  
and Advanced Immediate Care

### Ohio State Outpatient Care Dublin

6700 University Blvd., Dublin;  
614-814-7777

Medical services including  
primary care, imaging and  
lab work, physical therapy,  
outpatient surgery and  
procedures, pharmacy, and  
Advanced Immediate Care

### Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital

452 W. 10th Ave.,  
Columbus; 614-293-8000

Specialty hospital focusing  
on cardiac care, with Central  
Ohio's only adult heart-  
transplantation program

### Talbot Hall

1441 Phale D. Hale Drive,  
Columbus; 614-257-3760

Comprehensive drug and  
alcohol addiction recovery  
services

### University Hospital

410 W. 10th Ave., Columbus;  
614-293-8000

Full-service hospital with  
Level I Trauma Center,  
Level III neonatal ICU and  
comprehensive burn center

### University Hospital East

181 Taylor Ave., Columbus;  
614-257-3000

Full-service teaching hospital  
and Level III Trauma Center

## FINDING A PROVIDER

A good place to start your medical provider search is the annual Top Doctors list, compiled by Castle Connolly and published in the August issue of *Columbus Monthly* magazine. There you'll find hundreds of Central Ohio doctors, organized by specialty, that have been identified as leaders in their fields. A similar list of dental care providers is published in the magazine's June issue. You can find both by searching at [columbusmonthly.com](http://columbusmonthly.com).

Beyond that, you can check the State Medical Board of Ohio at [med.ohio.gov](http://med.ohio.gov) to look up licenses of and any disciplinary actions taken against specific medical professionals. The board licenses and regulates physicians and physician assistants, massage therapists, genetic counselors, radiology and anesthesiology assistants, cosmetic therapists and acupuncturists.

# CULTURE IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

SECTION

## 06.

"I CAME TO GET MY MASTER'S DEGREE IN 2011 AND I ENDED UP STAYING IN COLUMBUS BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS HERE. I WISH I'D KNOWN THAT THE ARTS COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST IN THE NATION [BEFORE I ARRIVED]. I NEVER EXPECTED TO HAVE THIS MUCH SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS."

**JACCI DELANEY**

Jacci Delaney Glass | Artist, Director and Owner

*Moved here in 2011 from Peoria, Illinois*

### COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

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# ARTS IN THE COLUMBUS REGION

From stage to screen and everything in between, our arts scene is top-notch. Visit [columbusmakesart.com](https://columbusmakesart.com) for artist stories and the latest exhibition news.

## ARTS INSTITUTIONS

### CAPA

As the owner or manager of Central Ohio's leading performing-arts venues—including the Davidson Theatre and other performing spaces inside the Riffe Center, as well as the Ohio Theatre, Lincoln Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre and McCoy Center for the Arts in New Albany—the Columbus Association of the Performing Arts (CAPA) has long been a fixture in the area arts scene.

Together, its theaters play host to an array of visiting music and dance talent, including performances from local arts organizations such as the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Pro-Musica Chamber Orchestra, Columbus Jazz Orchestra, BalletMet and Opera Columbus, as well as the Broadway in Columbus series and countless touring artists, acts and shows.

Annual offerings include film classics and cult favorites in the Summer Movie Series, in which the Ohio Theatre turns back time to revisit its origins as a movie palace, and Festival Latino. The organization also helps operate the Drexel Theatre—the independent, art deco movie theater in Bexley—and the recently opened Hinson Amphitheater, an outdoor venue near the McCoy Center.

### Greater Columbus Arts Council

Few organizations in the city provide more tangible support to the arts community than the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC), which, through grants, fellowships, residences and awards, helps arts groups and artists do what they do best: share their creativity with



*The Wexner Center for the Arts*

the community. The GCAC also hosts perhaps the single most notable arts event of the summer, the Columbus Arts Festival (see more on page 112).



### The King Arts Complex

In 2022, the King Arts Complex marked 35 years of presenting arts programming focusing on African American life and culture, and that

rich history is added to each and every year. Visual arts are represented in the Elijah Pierce Gallery, named for the late Columbus folk artist. Musical offerings include the annual Heritage Music Festival, and presentations by dance and theater groups are featured throughout the year.

### Wexner Center for the Arts

The always-innovative arts center on the campus of Ohio State University is known for its consciousness-expanding exhibitions, eclectic performing-arts presentations and bold film programming. In 2022, the film/video theater hosted accomplished documentarian Sam Green and screen legend Pam Grier, and the exhibition space presented an expansive survey of works by Colombian artist Carlos Motta.

## MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

**Columbus Museum of Art**

Founded more than 140 years ago as the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, the museum now serves as the anchor of a vibrant visual-arts scene. During its century-and-a-half in existence, the museum has steadily added to its permanent collection, which now includes masterpieces by Edward Hopper, Pablo Picasso, Elijah Pierce and countless others. The Margaret M. Walter Wing, unveiled in 2015, reflects the museum's commitment to cutting-edge and contemporary art. Past notable exhibitions have included *Through Vincent's Eyes: Van Gogh and His Sources* and *Raggin' On: The Art of Aminah Robinson*.

**Pizzuti Collection**

The cornerstone of this contemporary art venue are pieces from the collection of local real estate moguls and philanthropists Ron and Ann Pizzuti, but the Short North gallery has only grown since opening in 2013. Now operating as part of the Columbus Museum of Art, the 18,000-square-foot venue remains committed to introducing Central Ohioans to the glories and surprises of works by modern art-makers. Recent exhibitions include 2022's *I Hear America Singing: Contemporary Photography from America*.

**Riffe Gallery**

Want to know how much Columbus values the art it makes? It's in the name of one of downtown's most prominent government buildings. The Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts is full of things to do and see. In addition to multiple performing-arts spaces, the first floor is home to the Ohio

Arts Council's Riffe Gallery, whose mandate is to celebrate the works of artists throughout the Buckeye State. Regularly changing exhibitions spotlight everything from sculptures to still lifes to quilts.

**Short North Arts District**

Roughly a dozen small and specialized galleries give the Short North Arts District its name, including Hammond Harkins Galleries (whose artists include up-and-coming abstract artist Alteronce Gumby, renowned creator of pastoral scenes Paul Hamilton, and the late MacArthur Fellow Aminah Robinson), Lindsay Gallery (which offers "outsider art" made by artists with no formal training) and Brandt-Roberts Galleries (which represents a range of area artists, including Mark Gingerich and Cody Heichel). Gallery Hop, which takes place the first Saturday of each month, offers the chance to sample the rich mix of artists represented in the Short North.



Pizzuti Collection



Short North Arts District

## THEATER

**Actors' Theatre of Columbus**

As Cole Porter said, “brush up on your Shakespeare”—and enjoy the summer weather in Central Ohio at the same time. Since 1982, Actors' Theatre of Columbus has proven that Shakespeare in the Park is not just for New Yorkers. Each summer, the company brings works by the Bard—as well as other playwrights—to the Amphitheater Stage in German Village's Schiller Park. Shows are “pay what you will,” with a recommended donation of at least \$17.50. VIP seating is also available for a flat rate.

**Available Light Theatre**

This company wants you to experience art regardless of how much cash is in your pocket, so, since 2008, the company has offered “pay what you want” prices for a majority of its performances (most of which take place in the Riffe Center's theaters). While the troupe puts a value at \$35 per seat for its productions, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25 are all acceptable payment options (as are amounts greater than \$35, of course). Recent seasons have included

Kate Benson's “[PORTO],” Nassim Soleimanpour's “White Rabbit Red Rabbit” and Jen Silverman's “Witch.”

**CATCO**

One of the heavyweights in Columbus' performing-arts scene, CATCO distinguishes itself from other theater troupes thanks to its association with the Actors' Equity labor union. Beyond that designation, the troupe is known for its first-class productions in the Riffe Center and elsewhere. Following the retirement of long-tenured producing director Steven Anderson, CATCO turned to new artistic director Leda Hoffmann to both maintain the company's reputation for excellence and navigate it into the future. Its stated mission is to evolve into a “nationally recognized, anti-racist contemporary theatre company,” and with such bold works as Joceyln Bieh's “School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play” and Paula Vogel's “Indecent” having been recently performed, the troupe is well on its way.

**Columbus Children's Theatre**

The Columbus Children's Theatre traces its roots to the Columbus Junior Theatre of the Arts, which operated under that name from 1963 to 1998. No matter what name it goes by, the company has long served as a launching pad for aspiring thespians in the community—including Mike Faist, later the star of Steven Spielberg's 2021 remake of “West Side Story,” and Bexley native Josh Radnor of *How I Met Your Mother* fame—while providing entertaining, insightful productions to budding theatergoers. Some shows are performed in the Lincoln Theatre, and the ensemble prides itself on teaming up with other local arts groups, including Actors' Theatre and BalletMet.

**Shadowbox Live**

Reflecting its ambition and industriousness, the country's largest resident theater company has gone through several venue changes since its launch in 1988, including an old buggy factory and Easton Town Center, but it found the perfect spot to bring to life its edgy fare in 2011 with the opening of a 32,000-square-foot theater in the Brewery District. In addition to iconic sketch comedy and rock 'n' roll shows and original plays, the annual “Holiday Hoopla” remains the city's most irreverent holiday program every November and December.



CATCO

### Short North Stage

Everybody recognizes that the Short North is a visual arts hot spot, but the Short North Stage—performing in the Garden Theater—has helped make it a theater district, too. Since this troupe's formation in 2011, the company has performed an assortment of demanding plays and tuneful musicals worthy of an Off-Broadway theater, including parts 1 and 2 of Tony Kushner's "Angels in America," a series of works by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, the musical "Rent" and the stage version of "The Rocky Horror Show."

### Gallery Players

Dramas and comedies centering on Jewish life are brought to the boards by the Gallery Players, which is based at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus. The ensemble's typically diverse offerings in recent seasons have included family favorite "The Secret Garden" and the regional premiere of "Intimate Apparel."

### MadLab Theatre

It may be situated in a modest building on North Third Street in downtown Columbus, but MadLab Theatre thinks big, annually staging around eight all-new plays. If you want to see a whole slew of original plays in a single evening, the annual Theatre Roulette festival presents anywhere between 20 and 30 plays that run no longer than 15 minutes apiece.

### More Troupes

Central Ohio is also home to a vibrant array of community theater groups, including Arena Fair Theatre in Delaware, Curtain Players in Galena, Chillicothe Civic Theatre, Fairfield Footlighters, Garret Players in Lancaster, Lancaster Players, Licking County Players in Newark, Mad River Theater Works in Zanesfield, Morrow Little Theatre in Cardington, Mount Vernon Players, Pickerington Community Theatre, Roundtown Players in Circleville and Silver Scene Players in Marysville.



BalletMet

## DANCE

### BalletMet

With more than a decade at the helm of BalletMet, artistic director Edwaard Liang has made his share of moves at the company. A former member of the prestigious New York City Ballet, Liang has tested the limits of his roster of 20-some dancers by bringing in acclaimed outside choreographers, including Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, and reviving works by dance giants George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. The company has also benefited from the choreographic gifts of Liang, who has created numerous small- and large-scale dances. Recent seasons have featured Liang's original story ballets "Cinderella," "Giselle" and "Dorothy and the Prince of Oz," all performed in the company's two main venues, the Ohio Theatre and the Riffe Center's Davidson Theatre. Perennially popular productions

remain in the repertoire, including former artistic director David Nixon's "Dracula" and, of course, "The Nutcracker" every December in the Ohio Theatre.

### Columbus Dance Theatre

Led by longtime company members (and married couple) Seth Wilson and Jaime Kotrba, who serve as artistic and executive directors, respectively, Columbus' other ballet troupe performs in its own space as well as area theaters, including the Lincoln and the Davidson. Leading a roster of dancers performing in both classical and contemporary styles, Wilson and Kotrba have maintained several popular longstanding programs, including the collaborative "Dancers Making Dances," while introducing new favorites, including its answer to "The Nutcracker," the holiday ballet "Wonderment."

## MUSIC

### Columbus Symphony Orchestra

Hired as music director in 2015, Bulgarian-born Rossen Milanov is now firmly entrenched on the podium of the Ohio Theatre, where the orchestra performs its Masterworks concerts. Founded in 1951, the acclaimed orchestra regularly proves that it is up to the demands of the most challenging works in the classical repertoire, from Beethoven to Dvorak and beyond. In recent seasons, the orchestra has aimed to expand its reach beyond the Ohio Theatre: In addition to setting up shop in the John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons for summertime Picnic With the Pops concerts—always featuring notable national pop acts, as well as the Ohio State University marching band—the orchestra routinely performs community concerts in churches and small venues throughout the area. Annual offerings include “Holiday Pops” in December, live accompaniment to classic movies (including, in 2022, “Raiders of the

Lost Ark”) and several performances featuring the much-loved Columbus Symphony Chorus.

### Columbus Jazz Orchestra

For 50 years and counting, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra has been bringing the swing to Central Ohio. Overseen since 2002 by music director and trumpeter Byron Stripling, the 16-member orchestra (part of the Jazz Arts Group of Columbus) brings boisterous beats and rousing rhythms to multiple venues, including the Southern Theatre, Lincoln Theatre and even the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, where the group performs summertime, family-friendly JazZoo concerts. Programming in recent seasons has included tributes to artists ranging from Louis Armstrong to Frank Sinatra, and talented out-of-town artists are routinely welcomed on stage, among them vocalists Carmen Bradford and Tony DeSare. “Home for the Holidays,” performed each year around Thanksgiving, is an annual audience favorite.

### ProMusica Chamber Orchestra

One of the city’s most distinguished arts organizations, ProMusica’s footprint extends beyond Central Ohio.

Long-tenured music director David Danzmayr is a native of Austria and principal guest artist Vadim Gluzman, a native of Ukraine. Many of its three dozen (or so) musicians also make their homes outside of Columbus, including concertmaster Katherine McLin (whose need for a new violin inspired one of the orchestra’s supporters to donate \$1 million to help with the purchase of the instrument). The orchestra’s artists converge each season for traditional concerts at the Southern Theatre, as well as nontraditional spaces, including Natalie’s Grandview, The Fives and, each summer, the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

### Opera Columbus

Following through on the mission of former leader Peggy Kriha Dye, now with the Virginia Opera, general director and CEO Julia Noulín-Meratt seeks to



Left, Skully's Music-Diner; right, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra



*The Columbus Symphony Orchestra at the Ohio Theatre*

make opera appealing and relatable to the widest possible audience. Under her leadership, operas have been performed at COSI and 400 West Rich, as well as its traditional home for many years, the Southern Theatre. Operatic offerings are programmed to appeal to every taste or comfort level, from family audiences with “La Cenerentola (Cinderella)” to those seeking a more immersive experience with an audience-participatory production of “La Traviata.”

### **Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus**

Making music since 1990, the chorus has earned a rightful reputation for being able to sing just about anything and sing it well; its repertoire ranges from pop tunes to sacred favorites. This ensemble has a deeper social purpose: In its own words, through superior music-making and the fostering of an inclusive, supportive atmosphere, the vocal group seeks “to foster increased recognition, understanding and acceptance of individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community.”

### **Contemporary tunes**

National and regional musical talent in a variety of genres regularly streams through the city’s large venues. The Arena District’s KEMBA Live! has hosted some of the biggest touring names in the nation in its indoor/outdoor venue, as has the Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center. On the Ohio State University campus, the Newport Music Hall is known as the country’s longest continually running rock club.

For those who prefer more intimate settings, Central Ohio has plenty to choose from, including the Basement, a venue geared to upwardly mobile rockers; Natalie’s Grandview, which has won fans both for its pizzas and its booking of Americana acts; Skully’s Music-Diner, aiming to please the stomach and the ears; Woodlands Tavern and Rumba Café, both featuring good beers accompanied by musical talent; and Six String Concerts, which presents guitarists in a variety of venues, including the King Arts Complex.

**“THE CITY IS THRIVING WITH THINGS TO DO, BOTH CREATIVE AND INTELLECTUAL. I’VE FOUND ART CLASSES THAT RIVAL AND EVEN SURPASS THOSE I’VE FOUND EVEN LIVING IN LA. ... I LOVE THE GENUINE NATURE OF THE PEOPLE [HERE]. I LOVE THAT THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO, AND IT’S ALL JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY.”**

**LISA LOWMAN**

Hollister | Senior Vice President of Design

*Moved here in 2015 from Los Angeles, California*

## ARTS COLLECTIVES

## Indie Arts Spaces

Creators of every kind can find work spaces in Columbus-area arts collectives. Artists and organizations can rent studios or administrative space at 400 West Rich; Blockfort and Skylab allow artists to create and display their work; the Idea Foundry makes available space and tools for entrepreneurs; Wild Goose Creative furnishes space for a wide span of endeavors, from exhibit openings to concerts. It also hosts regular programs, including the annual Wild Art Columbus event, and 400 West Rich participates in monthly Franklinton Fridays with gallery exhibitions, open studios and more.

**“MY WIFE, DAUGHTER AND I MOVED TO COLUMBUS TO FIND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE. MY WIFE’S FAMILY LIVES IN COLUMBUS, SO THAT WAS DEFINITELY A PLUS, BUT THE TRUE MOTIVATOR WAS A MORE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE CITY WITH JUST AS MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT AS ITS MORE POPULOUS COUNTERPARTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.”**

## MAC JOSEPH

Paul Werth Associates | Senior Vice President

*Moved here in 2016 from Chatham, New Jersey*

## FILM

## Gateway Film Center

Just south of the campus of Ohio State University, the Gateway Film Center is as hip as its neighborhood. Showing both offbeat and mainstream new releases, the center sets itself apart with its special series, including the annual “Hitchcocktober,” which, each autumn, features the greatest films of Alfred Hitchcock, the Master of Suspense; and a recent series highlighting the offbeat films of indie studio A24. Whether your tastes are solidly mainstream or flirt with the eclectic, however, the first-rate screening rooms, featuring both digital and film capabilities, and stadium seating make this one of the most appealing places in town to go to the movies.

## Drexel Theatre

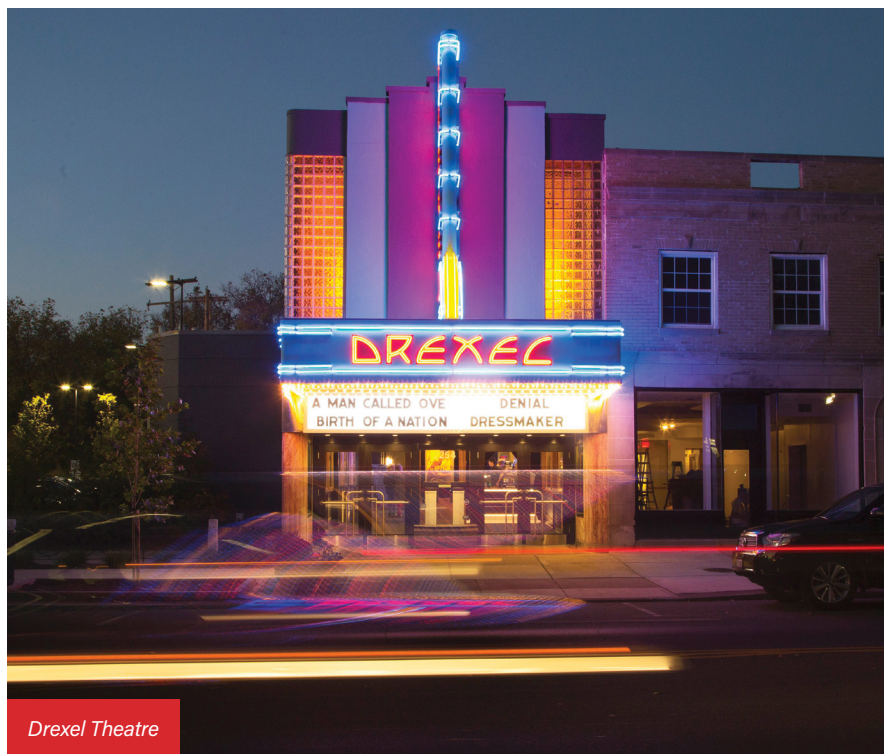
A fixture in Bexley since first firing up its film projectors in 1937, the Drexel Theatre spruced up its appearance in 2016 with a \$2.5 million renovation that enhanced its marquee, lobby area

and screening rooms. The revitalized art deco ambiance is impressive, but audiences frequent the venue for what’s reliably found on the screen.

These days, the theater offers the most notable in art-house and foreign cinema, as well as the occasional blockbuster.

## Small-Scale Venues

Who knew that single- and dual-screen theaters could provide so many avenues for entertainment? Studio 35 Cinema & Drafthouse and its sister, Grandview Theater & Drafthouse, may each show only one or two films at a time, but they supplement the on-screen happenings with off-screen libations—both serve an assortment of beers and cocktails, often pairing them with movies—and periodic celebrity guests, such as a 2021 screening of the so-bad-it’s-good cult movie “The Room” with co-star Greg Sestero on hand to accept questions (or expressions of bafflement) in-person.



Drexel Theatre

## COLLEGIATE

## Galleries

In visual arts, the Ohio State University's Urban Arts Space, located in downtown's RiverSouth neighborhood, shows off a wide array of art, including pieces created by OSU faculty members. Also in downtown Columbus, the Columbus College of Art & Design's Beeler Gallery displays works by both CCAD students and internationally admired artists. Additionally, Denison Museum and Kenyon College's Gund Gallery present exhibits throughout the year; Ohio Wesleyan University's Ross Art Museum draws on a permanent collection that includes works by Pablo Picasso and Frank Stella, while also featuring contemporary artists; and Capital University's Schumacher Gallery presents local and traveling exhibits, with recent highlights including a juried survey of works from members of the Ohio Plein Air Society.

## Song and dance

BalletMet and Columbus Dance Theatre are not the only groups in the city who know how to spin, leap and pirouette. OSU's Department of Dance also presents programs featuring student dancers performing their own works or those by faculty members.

Theater departments at area schools put students on stages, too. OSU's Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts closed its 2021-22 season with the musical "Violet"; Otterbein University's Department of Theatre & Dance opened its 2022-23 season with Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music"; and Denison University's Department of Theatre offers four productions annually, including at least one musical.

Finally, the grand traditions of classical music are kept alive by faculty members, student ensembles and musicians outside academia during recitals and concerts at OSU's School of Music and Otterbein's Department of Music.

"The Journey"



## Experiential Art

One of the benefits to living in Columbus is that you don't have to be an art aficionado to encounter great works of art. In our city, the art very often comes to us, or we find ourselves inside it.

For example, the Short North's Gallery Hop is held in the arts district during the first Saturday of each month. In the company of fellow art watchers, you can peruse the numerous private galleries in the area while also enjoying street performers, including dancers and stilt walkers, with the option of taking breaks for sustenance at one of the Short North's many restaurants or bars.

While you're in the Short North, you're likely to run into numerous temporary and permanent public art murals. All are inherently Instagram-worthy: take a selfie in front of any of these pieces. One of the most prominent is "The Journey" by Ryan Sarfati and Eric Skotnes, murals that now grace the outside of the Graduate Hotel. Birds, flowers and human figures are pictured in bright, swirling colors on the building. Also in the Short North, you're bound to come face-to-face with the famous "Short North Gothic," a distinctly upside-down take on Grant Wood's painting "American Gothic" on the outside of Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams on the corner of North High and East Lincoln streets. Huge, wry, and impossible to miss, it's very Short North.

Sprinkled throughout Central Ohio are numerous other works of public art, from Dublin's Field of Corn, boasting 109 ears of corn over 6 feet high, to Alfred Tibor's beautiful bronze sculpture, Free, in Upper Arlington. If you know you'll be in a particular spot and don't want to miss anything, consult the listing of public art, encompassing everything from statues to theater marquees, on the Art Makes Columbus website: [columbusmakesart.com/public-art](https://columbusmakesart.com/public-art).

If your idea of fun is inhabiting environments with alien flora or abstract shapes, check out Otherworld on Chantry Drive, a 32,000-square-foot, 47-room building housing multiple immersive art experiences through which you can meander. (See more on page 116.)

# CENTERED ON THE ARTS

The Region is dotted with arts centers that host workshops, events and exhibits throughout the year. Whether you're after an evening of classical music or a lesson on great painters, Central Ohio arts centers can provide that experience.

## The Arts Castle

Constructed of stone and residing in part of a large tower, the Arts Castle in Delaware looks every bit as imposing as a medieval castle. Inside its walls, however, the arts venue is positively inviting. Throughout the year, classes aimed at teens and adults are offered—including in dance, glass, drama and culinary arts—as well as those for children in the categories of baking, painting, fiber, dance and ceramics. Visual-arts exhibitions, including those at the off-site Gallery 22 on East Winter Street, change several times a year.

190 W. Winter St., Delaware  
740-369-2787 | [artscastle.org](http://artscastle.org)

## Dublin Arts Center

One of Dublin's most notable former residences, a French eclectic home built in 1941, has become one of the city's cultural meccas. Throughout rooms that still feel like living spaces, including a living room and sun porch, visitors encounter regularly changing exhibitions reflecting multiple mediums. The Dublin Arts Council, headquartered here, also sponsors outdoor concerts in Scioto Park and directs visitors to the city's diverse public art, including the famous Field of Corn sculpture garden.

7125 Riverside Drive, Dublin  
614-889-7444 | [dublinarts.org](http://dublinarts.org)



The Arts Castle

### McCoy Center for the Arts

Located just a stone's throw from the New Albany-Plain Local Schools campus and the newly opened Hinson Amphitheater, the McCoy Center is ideally positioned to enrich the residents of New Albany. In addition to serving area students, the venue's 786-seat Irving E. Schottenstein Theater also hosts local ensembles, including the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and New Vision Dance Co., as well as out-of-town performing artists.

100 W. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany  
614-245-4701 | [mccoycenter.org](http://mccoycenter.org)

### Licking County Arts Gallery

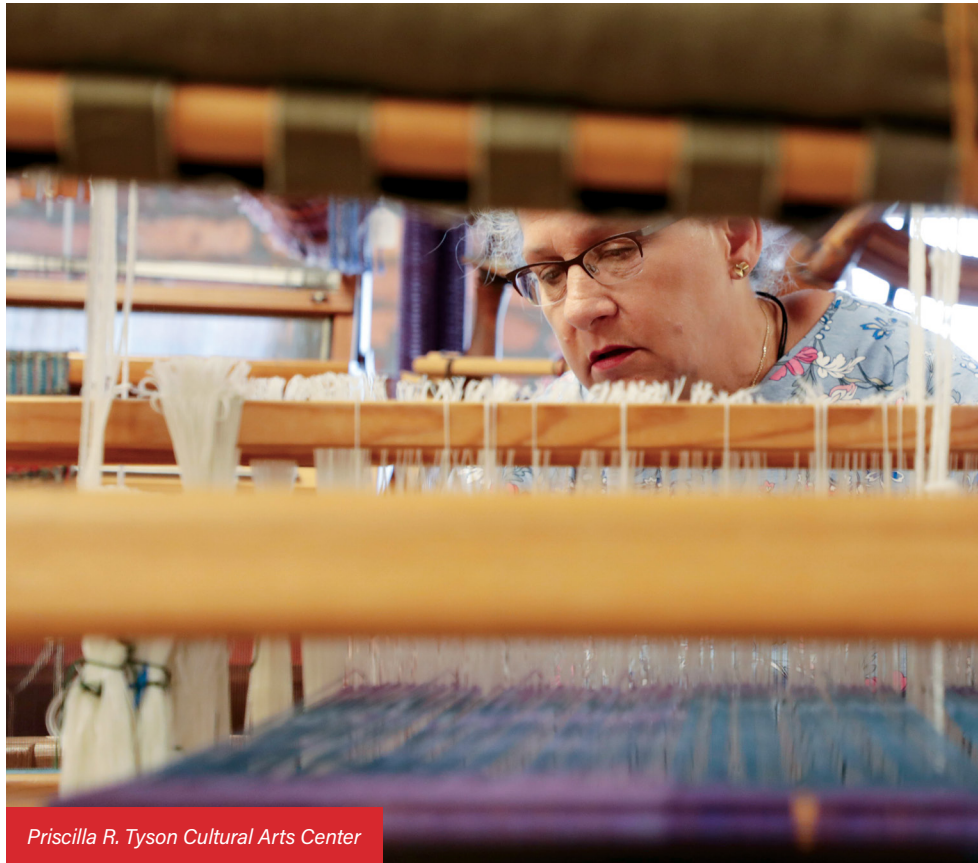
The creativity of member artists from the community is continually celebrated in an ongoing series of monthly exhibitions. New art is hung during the last Friday of the month, when visitors are invited to meet and greet the artists.

50 S. Second St., Newark  
740-349-8031 | [lickingcountyarts.net](http://lickingcountyarts.net)

### Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center

Built in 1915 and first used as a high school, this arts center now resonates with music, bursts with movement and, from time to time, overflows with canvases. Art lovers can learn the finer points of creating pastels, portraits and more, while children can perfect their pirouettes with classes from BalletMet (and adults can add to their dance skill set with classes from Perennial Movement Group). Special summer programs and youth classes ranging from fashion to poetry add to the enrichment. An ample exhibition space shows off the depth of the community's artistic talent, while a theater provides a stage for numerous groups or artists, including the Worthington Chamber Orchestra.

777 Evening St., Worthington  
614-431-0329 | [mcconnellarts.org](http://mcconnellarts.org)



Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center

### Pickaway Creative Arts Center

Through its arts center, the Pickaway County Family YMCA aims to have something to enrich people of all ages and interests. There are dance classes for ages 2 through 18; art classes and workshops tailored for both youths and adults; and a recently added theater program that offers a broad overview of everything involved in mounting dramatic productions.

165 E. Main St., Circleville | 740-477-6099  
[ymcacolumbus.org/pickaway/creative-arts-center](http://ymcacolumbus.org/pickaway/creative-arts-center)



### Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center

Whether you want to experience art or make it yourself, the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center—renamed for the longtime former City Council member in October 2022—has been a fixture of downtown Columbus for over four decades. Art classes instruct those interested in mediums ranging from textiles to ceramics to jewelry, while workshops provide serious students with training in forms including calligraphy, oil painting and sewing. Art aficionados will want to make frequent treks to the center's two galleries, which regularly feature artists from around the area and across the country.

139 W. Main St., Columbus  
614-645-7047 | [culturalartscenteronline.org](http://culturalartscenteronline.org)

# PLAY BALL!

With several professional men's and women's teams and robust collegiate programs, options abound for spectator sports in the Buckeye State.

**FACT:** Ohioans love sports. All sports. From Minor League Baseball and college football to Major League Soccer and the National Hockey League, there's a team to cheer on any time of year. And, thanks to recent legislation that legalized sports betting online and at retail sportsbooks in the state, 2023 will see even more ways to get in on the fun.



## Columbus Chaos

Formerly the Columbus Comets, the Columbus Chaos women's semi-pro football team debuted in 2022. As part of the Women's Football Alliance, the team was formed by Columbus Comets alumnae Chelsea Johnson and Staci Alkula. The team is working to fill out its 50-person roster, hosting minicamp workouts at Blacklick Woods Metro Park in Reynoldsburg.

*Co-owners: Chelsea Johnson and Staci Alkula*

*Colors: Black, gray and red*



## Columbus Clippers

Founded in 1977, the Columbus Clippers are one of the city's oldest professional teams. The Clippers started as a Triple-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates before becoming the affiliate of the New York Yankees. Baseball big-timers like Don Mattingly, Darryl Strawberry and Derek Jeter have all taken to the field with the team. Now it is the affiliate for the Cleveland Guardians (formerly the Cleveland Indians). The Clippers' home, Huntington Park, is a staple in the Arena District downtown. The team was named League Champions in 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2019.

*Manager: Andy Tracy*

*Colors: Navy, light blue and gray*



### Columbus Blue Jackets

In 2000, the Columbus Blue Jackets took to the ice as the city's first NHL team. Though the first few years were rough for the team, the Blue Jackets qualified for the Stanley Cup playoffs in 2009. Fast-forward to 2019, when the Jackets won their first playoff series against the Tampa Bay Lightning and became the first NHL team in history to sweep a President's Trophy-winning team (awarded to the team with the most regular season points) in the first round. The team is on the rise with a young core and signed star Johnny Gaudreau in 2022.

*Captain: Boone Jenner*

*Coach: Brad Larsen*

*Colors: Navy, red and silver*



### OSU FANDOM IN CENTRAL OHIO

One thing is for sure in Central Ohio— in sports, the Buckeyes reign supreme. Ohio State University athletic director Gene Smith oversees the school's 19 women's and 18 men's top-tier NCAA Division I programs.

With eight National Championship wins and 41 conference titles, the Buckeye football team is the crown jewel of the university's athletic program. Former coaches Woody Hayes, John Cooper and Jim Tressel have reached cult-like status among the team's legion of fans. In late 2018, Ryan Day was named head coach when then-coach Urban Meyer was placed on administrative leave. Though the team and coaching staff have had their fair share of scandal and strife, the team's hard-won reputation as a force to be reckoned with keeps die-hard Buckeye fans faithful to the program. In winter months, sports fans still bleed scarlet and gray when Buckeye basketball takes over. OSU's men's team has appeared at 10 Final Fours (one additional appearance has been vacated by the NCAA) and in 27 NCAA tournaments (four other appearances have been vacated).

Women's teams do well for themselves, too: In the 2021-22 season, ice hockey won a school-record 32 games, led the nation with 175 goals scored and won its first National Championship. Also that year, swim and dive took their third consecutive Big Ten Championship; basketball made it to the Sweet 16; synchronized swimming took home its 33rd National Championship; and tennis finished first in the Big Ten and made it to the second round of NCAAs.



COLUMBUS



## Columbus Crew

Started in 1996 as one of the original 10 clubs in Major League Soccer, the Columbus Crew has a fandom and a culture all its own. Attending your first home Crew game is more of an initiation than a sporting event. In the Nordecke (a section for super fans), you'll find drums and yellow smoke among the sea of black and gold. The Crew have won six major trophies in the league: the MLS Cup in 2008 and 2020, the Supporters' Shield in 2004, 2008 and 2009; and the 2002 U.S. Open Cup. In 2017, it looked as though the team would be moving to Austin—much to the dismay of its loyal fans. As a testament to the public support the soccer club harbors, a grassroots effort called "Save the Crew" kept the club in Columbus. The team joined the Blue Jackets and Clippers in the Arena District, opening Lower.com Field in 2021.

*Captain: Jonathan Mensah*

*Coach: Wilfried Nancy*

*Colors: Black and gold*

COLUMBUS



## Columbus Crew 2

In 2021, Major League Soccer announced the launch of MLS Next Pro, a developmental league featuring 21 clubs across the country. The Columbus Crew announced they'd have a team in the inaugural 2022 season. And have a team they did—Crew 2 would go on to finish with the best record in the regular season, then win the championship at Lower.com Field.

The team also dominated individual awards, with Jacen Russell-Rowe winning the MVP and Golden Boot (most goals scored), Laurent Courtois winning coach of the year and Patrick Schulte being named goaltender of the year.

*Captain: Marco Micaletto*

*Coach: Laurent Courtois*

*Colors: Black and gold*



## Columbus Eagles

After a trying two years during the Covid-19 pandemic, Central Ohio's premier women's soccer club, the Columbus Eagles, entered their ninth season in 2022. The team is part of the Women's Premier Soccer league and is headed up by Captain Ashley Gogolin—who was part of the U.S. Women's National Mini-Football team and won the World Cup in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2021. In 2016, the Eagles played the Cincinnati Sirens FC at Historic Crew Stadium, the former home of the Columbus Crew, becoming the first WPSL team to host a match in an MLS stadium. The following year, the Eagles had their best-ever league finish, setting new records for wins, points and goals scored.

*Captain: Ashley Gogolin | Coach: Matt Ogden*

*Colors: Gold, black, purple and gray*



## LOWER.COM FIELD

In 2017, the city's beloved MLS team, the Columbus Crew, was on the verge of moving to Austin, much to the dismay of the soccer club's legions of loyal fans.

Thanks to a grassroots effort, Crew supporters, local politicians and business leaders were able to keep the team in Columbus and build a new stadium in the heart of the Arena District.

The Crew's new home, the 446,000-square-foot Lower.com Field, is a world-class stadium worthy of the team's ever-growing fan base. With 20,000 seats, a beer garden, two standing-room-only fan terraces, five luxury seating areas and the second-largest supporter's section in the league (known as the Nordecke), a 1,000-square-foot play room, two nurseries and a 220,000-square foot canopy to keep fans dry, the state-of-the-art facility has become a new point of pride for the team.

What's more, the field's design allows fans to get closer than ever to the action. VIP seats are only 16 feet from the field, and Nordecke fans are only 18 feet from the field—almost 30 feet closer than at the team's former home, at Historic Crew Stadium. The bowl shape and high seating rake ensure everyone has a chance to be part of the action, even in the back rows.

## ON DECK

Columbus is home to pro teams in the NHL, MLS and AAA Baseball, as well as several college athletic programs, including the Ohio State Buckeyes. All three pro teams share a half-mile stretch of road in the aptly named Arena District. Games aside, there are a number of annual sporting events in Central Ohio. Here are a few perennial favorites.

### The Arnold Sports Festival

*February/March | Greater Columbus Convention Center and Ohio Expo Center*

Hailed as the largest multi-sport event in the world, the Arnold includes thousands of athletes competing in more than 60 events, plus a fitness expo, kids' expo and more. [arnoldsportsfestival.com](http://arnoldsportsfestival.com)

### OhioHealth Capital City Half Marathon

*April | throughout Columbus*

Thousands pound the pavement from German Village, through Downtown and the Short North, to the University District in this half marathon, quarter marathon and 5K. [capitalcityhalfmarathon.com](http://capitalcityhalfmarathon.com)

### The Memorial Tournament

*May/June | Muirfield Village Golf Club*

This Dublin golf course—designed by golf legend and Central Ohio native Jack Nicklaus—has hosted the PGA Tour event annually for more than 40 years. [thememorialtournament.com](http://thememorialtournament.com)

### Pelotonia

*August | throughout Central Ohio*

Thousands of cyclists take to the streets on predesignated, multicity routes to raise money to support cancer research. [pelotonia.org](http://pelotonia.org)

### All American Quarter Horse Congress

*September/October | Ohio Expo Center*

Columbus plays host to the largest single-breed horse show in the country over this event's three weeks of riding competitions, horse sales, demonstrations, a trade show and more. [quarterhorsecongress.com](http://quarterhorsecongress.com)

### Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon

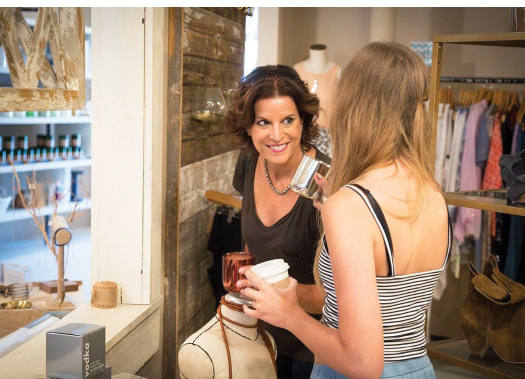
*October | throughout Columbus*

The state's biggest marathon (and the city's largest half marathon) is regularly ranked as a top running event in the country; participants raise money to support kids receiving services from Nationwide Children's Hospital. [columbusmarathon.com](http://columbusmarathon.com)



#### MORE SPORTING EVENTS

Scan the QR code to see a list of more sporting events in the Region throughout the year.



**“YOU WILL GET MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK IN THE COLUMBUS REGION. GOOD PEOPLE, GOOD TIMES, AND IT CAN PROVIDE A GOOD FUTURE.”**

**ANTHONY JONES**  
AJC Solutions | President

*Moved here in 2008  
from Toledo, Ohio*

*Clockwise from  
top left, Thread in  
Grandview, Easton  
during the holidays,  
Vernacular in  
Worthington*

## SHOP LOCAL

From boutiques to big names, the Columbus Region has it all.

**W**ant to hit up designer stores and more at the Midwest's largest shopping, dining and entertainment destination? Looking to spend the day strolling and browsing chic, locally owned boutiques in a charming neighborhood? Or maybe just need a convenient one-stop shop? Central Ohio has you covered.

### Your Route to Great Shopping

For an easy-to-follow route that will take you through many of Columbus' charming neighborhoods—all of which are packed with locally owned retail and dining establishments—simply follow High Street to great shopping. Begin browsing at the south end among German Village's charming brick streets and iconic, well-appointed homes. Since the 1930s, Helen Winnemore's has offered a tasteful selection of contemporary craft goods, jewelry and décor. Owners Julie and John Jenkins

became the latest caretakers in 2020. Just a few blocks away, Vernacular's German Village location (with others in Grandview and Worthington) offers women's apparel, home accents, accessories and more. Green thumb? Stop by Stump on Thurman Avenue to pick up plants and other sustainably crafted wares for your home. Any trip to German Village isn't complete without a visit to the historic Book Loft, one of the nation's largest independent bookstores. You don't have to visit all 32 winding rooms of books ... but why wouldn't you?

Continue your High Street shopping adventure through downtown to the galleries and chic, often locally owned boutiques of one of the city's most lively and vibrant areas: the Short North Arts District. Two mainstays include Rowe and Ladybird; both carry on-trend yet timeless clothing for the fashion-conscious woman, as does neighboring Jolie Occasions.

Men's shopping also abounds in the Short North.

Samson: A Men's Emporium is a stylish men's mercantile with apparel, grooming goods and more. Pursuit offers custom-made yet versatile suiting for all genders in a variety of cuts and styles.

Sports fans can celebrate their favorite team or pop culture moment at *Homage* (with another location at Easton), and anyone can find the perfect denim cut at *Artisan De Luxe*. In the market for vintage finds? In nearby Italian Village, *Flower Child Vintage's* museum-like turns elevate shopping into true entertainment.

The Short North is also a perfect place to shop for gifts. *Global Gifts* has fair-trade and ethically made items, from clothing and accessories to glassware and pottery. *Happy Go Lucky* consists of two sister storefronts next door to one another: *Home*, offering selections like candles and wall art, and *Her*, stocking women's clothing and accessories.

Move northward again, past the Ohio State University campus, to reach Clintonville. The quirky local favorite has plenty of vintage and antique stores on its south end, with a range of clothing, home goods and more sprinkled along the way. For furniture and home décor, *Boomerang Room Vintage*, *Eclectiques Antique Mall* and *Down Memory Lane* all have treasures you won't find anywhere else. *Rag-O-Rama* offers hip secondhand clothing, shoes and accessories. The *Brass Hand* brings Southwest flair to the Midwest with décor, apothecary goods, plants and more. *Tigertree* has a fun mix of gifts and goods for the whole modern family. *Wild Cat! Gift and Party* is a great stop for party goods and quirky gift items.

## More Great Neighborhoods

Situated just west of downtown Columbus, Grandview Heights' leafy streets surround a main shopping area along Grandview Avenue that's full of top local restaurants, boutiques and specialty stores. *Thread* is a favorite, featuring women's clothing and accessories by emerging and established designers. One of *Red Giraffe Designs'* storefronts is nearby (others are in the Short North and at Easton), offering stylish handmade jewelry.

The fun doesn't end on Grandview Avenue: Wander onto the side streets for more sights and finds. *Glenn Avenue Soap Co.* and *Earth Elements* both carry natural skincare items. Consignment shoppers have multiple options along Fifth Avenue. *Grandview Mercantile's* 22,000-square-foot showroom features antique and consignment furniture and home goods.

Just north of Grandview is the stylish suburb of

Upper Arlington. First, visit *The Shops on Lane Avenue* for local and national staples, including *Mutts & Co.*, *Loft*, *Ultra Beauty*, *Talbots*, *Chico's* and *White House Black Market*.

The Mallway at Old Arlington is home to more local spots. *Leál* has designer women's clothing and an elevated personalized shopping experience, and *Bohindi* showcases personalized jewelry, essential oils and meditation beads. *Cover to Cover* recently relocated to the Mallway area after spending many years in Clintonville. Stop there for children's books, writing workshops and cozy story time.

Shop your way northwest to the intersection of Bridge and High streets in Historic Dublin, known as BriHi Square. *Thread* has another location here,



**NEED A GIFT?  
CHECK OUT SHOPS  
IN THE SHORT  
NORTH, GRANDVIEW  
HEIGHTS AND  
UPPER ARLINGTON.**



## Out of the Loop

The deals don't end at the city's Interstate-270 loop. From Delaware to New Albany, nearly all of Columbus' suburbs and exurbs offer charming main streets and uptowns. Those willing to go further can save even more on their next shopping adventure at area outlets. If you are in the mood for a road trip, head south on I-71 past Grove City to Destination Outlets Jeffersonville for the Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, Yankee Candle outlet, Nike, Kate Spade New York and more. Tanger Outlets Columbus in Delaware County, just 15 minutes north of Polaris, is home to outlet store favorites like J.Crew, Michael Kors, Coach and North Face. Just one highway exit north of Tanger is Groovy Plants Ranch, a destination in its own right for gardening and houseplant enthusiasts.



**“BE PREPARED TO HAVE SUDDEN, FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS WITH STRANGERS WHO ARE ... SUPER NICE. AFTER LIVING IN NYC FOR 31 YEARS, THIS WAS A HUGE BREATH OF FRESH AIR.”**

## PHUNTSOL LAMA

Momo Ghar | Owner

*Moved here in 2014 from Brooklyn, New York*

and Boho 72 Boutique offers on-trend clothing and accessories at prices that won't break the bank. Nearby, Thalia & Dahlia has home goods and gifts, as does Extravagifts. Across the footbridge to the ever-expanding Bridge Park district, the new Flourish Boutique offers Instagram-worthy clothes and accessories.

Heading east on 270 brings you to Old Worthington, which offers a panoply of quaint, locally owned shops. Head to family-owned Worthington Jewelers for fine jewelry, or go trendy at Vernacular or Birch. Design and customize your own leather goods at Branch Line Leather Co., or pick up a cute or funky gift at Fritz Jacobs.

Rounding out the North Side, Uptown Westerville offers a picture-perfect retail strip along State Street, full of locally owned boutiques like Stone & Sparrow Apparel, gift and accessories haven Pure Roots, tomes and trinkets at the new Birdie Books, vintage treasures and gifts at A Gal Named Cinda Lou, Deja Vu ladies' consignment, Amish Originals furniture showroom and more, all packed into one small city's big shopping experience.

## More Than Malls

Columbus is home to two premier shopping, dining and entertainment destinations: Easton Town Center and Polaris Fashion Place. Each of these elevated concepts expand on the traditional shopping mall model to offer indoor and outdoor shopping stacked with both local stores, trendy national names and top designers, surrounded by entertainment and dining options. Those visiting from out of town can shop 'til they drop, then rest at a well-appointed hotel nearby.

Easton Town Center, a destination shopping experience located just 15 minutes northeast of downtown Columbus, has been a city staple for more than 20 years. The complex features walkable indoor and outdoor areas flush with signature stores like Nordstrom, Crate & Barrel and the newly opened Aritzia. Stores native to Ohio include Elm & Iron for curated furniture and home accents, the jewelry of Red Giraffe Designs and Celebrate Local, carrying gourmet food, drinks, art and jewelry created by in-state artisans. You'll also find luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and (Ohio's only) Gucci here, trendy stores like Zara and Anthropologie, and outdoor staples galore, including North Face, Dick's Sporting Goods and REI.

Polaris Fashion Place, just north of 270 off I-71 near Westerville, offers a premium indoor/outdoor mall experience all its own with a wealth of local and national offerings. Polaris' indoor area is anchored by multi-floor department stores Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Von Maur, JCPenney and trendy clothing store H&M. Locally headquartered Abercrombie & Fitch launched its redesigned store concept here; other major draws include Madewell, Williams-Sonoma, Lululemon, LUSH Cosmetics, locally owned sportswear favorite Where I'm From and, next door to Dick's Sporting Goods, its new outdoor brand, Public Lands.

If you prefer your shopping with a few more umlauts, head down Gemini Parkway to the Swedish almost-everything store, IKEA. Wear comfortable shoes: the 354,000-square-foot store carries more than 10,000 items. Take coffee or meatball breaks as needed at the family-friendly in-store restaurant upstairs, or grab a quick soft serve at the snack counter near the registers.



## STYLE CENTRAL

Columbus' claim on the fashion world is more than great shopping destinations. Known as the "fashion capital of the Midwest," there is no large U.S. metro area with a higher concentration of apparel headquarters employment.

Abercrombie & Fitch, Bath & Body Works, La Senza, Homage, DSW, Express, Victoria's Secret and its PINK label, and Lane Bryant are all headquartered in the Region, and Columbus continues to train and maintain a hotbed of textile-related talent, fed by powerful creative tributaries like the Columbus College of Art & Design.

The nonprofit Columbus Fashion Council was founded in 2010 to generate scholarship funds for fashion design students at CCAD. Its signature event, Fashion Week Columbus, highlights the work of local designers each fall.

Together, these brands and partnerships help keep Central Ohio looking good and always looking forward.

# HOP TILL YOU DROP

Communities across Central Ohio offer a variety of recurring shop-and-stroll events.

**F**rom weekly downtown markets to monthly art-centric events, you can ditch the big-box stores and explore one of Central Ohio's many bespoke shop-hop experiences. Stroll, sip and support local artists and small businesses while perusing one-of-a-kind gifts, enjoying local entertainment and experiencing each enclave's unique brand of hospitality.

## Short North Gallery Hop

**When:** First Saturdays, year-round, 4–10 p.m.

**Where:** Short North Arts District  
[shortnorth.org](http://shortnorth.org)

As one of the longest-running hops in Central Ohio, Gallery Hop is a Columbus tradition. Art enthusiasts, locals and visitors take to High Street on the first Saturday of every month for gallery openings, new exhibitions, entertainment and special events. Whether you catch an artist meet-and-greet, take advantage of shops staying open later or just enjoy the street performers (supported by the Greater Columbus Arts Council), Gallery Hop is a must-see for anyone looking to explore some of the best arts, entertainment, dining and shopping in the city. The December Holiday Hop is an extra-festive event, drawing the largest crowds and offering entertainment like visits with Santa, carolers and more.

## Mount Carmel St. Ann's 4th Fridays

**When:** Fourth Fridays, April–Sept., 6–9 p.m.

**Where:** Uptown Westerville  
[uptownwestervilleinc.com](http://uptownwestervilleinc.com)

For more than a decade, Westerville's 4th Fridays have been a spring and summer mainstay for Westerville locals and visitors alike. State Street becomes a pedestrian-only thoroughfare packed



with entertainment, art and more than 130 artisan vendors. Local stores stay open late for the event, with some even providing in-store entertainment. Each month boasts a different theme, with corresponding activities and performances, so you'll never have the same experience twice. The city's DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) allows adults 21 and up to stroll the streets with a drink from a participating establishment in hand.

## Grandview Hop

**When:** Last Saturdays, June–Sept., 5–9 p.m.

**Where:** Grandview Avenue between First and Fifth avenues  
[grandviewhop.com](http://grandviewhop.com)

The last Saturday of the month from June to September, Grandview Avenue closes to vehicular traffic and transforms into a night market and community block party. In true block party fashion, open container laws are relaxed from 5–9 p.m. for the hop, allowing attendees

to browse the 120 pop-up shops and food trucks and enjoy live entertainment and family-friendly activities with a drink in hand. Like most shopping hops, the Grandview Hop is free to attend; in a unique twist, 100 percent of the proceeds from its beer garden go to charity.

## Worthington Sunday Funday

**When:** Select Sundays, June–Nov., noon–6 p.m.

**Where:** Old Worthington  
[experienceworthington.com](http://experienceworthington.com)

The Worthington Partnership and the merchants of Old Worthington host Sunday Funday, a monthly afternoon of themed food, shopping, activities and entertainment from June to November. Throughout Old Worthington and the adjacent Village Green, patrons can sip and stroll from shop to shop (thanks to the city's DORA), take in the live entertainment, or enjoy activities like yoga and DIY workshops. With new vendors and a new theme every month, there's always something unique to see.

## Friday Nights Uptown

**When:** One Friday per month, May–August, 6–10 p.m.

**Where:** Partners Park, Marysville [marysvilleohio.org](http://marysvilleohio.org)

If you find yourself northwest of Columbus in Marysville on select summer Fridays, head to Partners Park to join the community gathering. This family-friendly, city-sponsored event features live music, local vendors and great food. Enjoy the small-town charm as you browse uptown shops, grab a bite at a local eatery and discover a different musical act every month.

## German Village Makers Market

**When:** Select Sundays, April–Dec., 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Where:** City Park and Thurman avenues, German Village [flat51.com](http://flat51.com)

The brainchild of Flat 51 event rental space owners Jen Brown and Chelsie Casagrande, the German Village Makers Market brings a wide variety of artisans and food trucks to the corner of City Park and Thurman avenues. Established in 2018, the German Village Makers Market aims to support up-and-coming Columbus makers, as well as more established local brands. With food trucks, artisan jewelry, clothing, candles and more, the German Village Makers Market is a one-stop shop for bespoke gifts, artisan goods and great eats.

## Franklinton Fridays

**When:** Second Fridays, 6–10 p.m.

**Where:** Throughout the east side of Franklinton [franklintonartsdistrict.com](http://franklintonartsdistrict.com)

Each month, the downtown Columbus-adjacent neighborhood of Franklinton invites everyone to experience the best of what the burgeoning arts district has to offer. Started in 2014 by local artists, Franklinton Fridays is a large-scale community event featuring art shows, exhibits, classes, theater, music and local artisan goods across about a dozen area venues. During the summer, the Franklinton Arts District hosts free live performances, highlighting a local artist's poster design and two Columbus performers.

## Third Fridays on the Green

**When:** Third Fridays, year-round, 6–10 p.m.

**Where:** Village Green Park, Powell [cityofpowell.us](http://cityofpowell.us)

As a new addition to the city of Powell's 2022 event calendar, Third Fridays on the Green brings music, food and entertainment to Village Green Park in conjunction with the city's DORA. Patrons can enjoy a beer, glass of wine or cocktail while they take in live music, grab a bite at their favorite food truck and explore all Powell has to offer. With a new theme every month, each Third Friday event offers a different experience.

## North Market Night Market

**When:** Third Fridays, June–August, 6–9 p.m.

**Where:** Historic North Market, Columbus [northmarket.org](http://northmarket.org)

The North Market has long been a Columbus institution, bringing a mix of Columbus' best eateries and retail options under one roof. Inspired by traditional outdoor markets, this open-air market on the third Friday of the summer months gives attendees the opportunity to buy directly from local entrepreneurs. Grab a cocktail at the Barrel & Bottle while you shop handmade goods, stock up on fresh produce or take in live music.

## Markets at Pearl

**When:** Varies

**Where:** North Pearl and West Gay streets, Columbus [marketsatpearl.org](http://marketsatpearl.org)

Markets at Pearl consists of three outdoor marketplaces and events in the heart of downtown. Pearl Market, Sunlight Market and Moonlight Market bring the farmers and makers market experience to the streets of downtown. Tuesdays and Thursdays from May to October, peruse local produce, farm products and artisan goods from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. during Pearl Market.

The Sunlight Market (held on third Sundays from May to December) offers dozens of sidewalk vendors and a fun atmosphere, with street musicians and plenty of patios to sip cocktails. For the later crowd, the Moonlight Market brings an outdoor festival vibe. From 5–10 p.m. on second Saturdays from May to November, enjoy local music and an upbeat atmosphere as you stroll and shop the brick-and-mortar stores, pop-up vendors and local restaurants. A bonus: Markets at Pearl participates in programs to improve access to healthy foods for underserved communities like the Produce Perks program and SNAP/WIC.



### MORE THINGS TO DO

Scan the QR code to see a list of farmers markets in the Region.

# EXPLORING COLUMBUS, BITE BY BITE

Discover a wide array of local eateries on themed food tours.

**Y**ou can tell a lot about a city by its food offerings, and Columbus has countless cuisines and restaurants to explore. It can be a bit overwhelming to navigate each neighborhood and its culinary options, but Columbus Food Adventures makes it much easier.

A food and beverage tour company that opened in 2010, Columbus Food Adventures offers 13 walking and van tours of the city's vast culinary options. Each tour lasts 3.5 hours and is designed for folks to sample the wares of restaurants and food businesses based on its theme. Often, the chefs or business owners will be available to meet patrons and share details about their origin stories.

Participants can get a literal taste of neighborhood culture with seven location-based walking tours that boast the best food of places like the Short North, German Village and Old Worthington, coupled with details about the history and architecture of each area.

Themed cuisine tours are available, as well, including one of Columbus Food Adventures' original offerings, the Alt Eats Tour, which explores the international cuisine so prevalent in the city. From Yemeni to Brazilian to Kenyan dishes, guests will be able to travel the world without leaving the city, all from the comfort of a 14-passenger van.

And for those who are curious about the city's thriving beverage scene, Columbus Food Adventures offers four adult beverage tours (which, thankfully, also include food), with year-round destinations in the Brewery District and Franklinton and seasonal offerings in the Short North. Guests visit cocktail bars and craft breweries alike while learning about the neighborhoods that support them.

The most popular tour, according to co-owner Bethia Woolf, is the German Village walking tour. "It's such an historic and attractive neighborhood," she says. "It's an area that takes some interpretation. Everything is scattered throughout a residential neighborhood, instead



*Scenes from local food tours*



of just one street." Woolf says the tour gives participants a chance to really notice the aesthetic details of the neighborhood.

One of the newest tours for the company is the Dublin Walking Tour, which combines Historic Dublin and the newer Bridge Park development, featuring the North Market Bridge Park. The tour combines old and new and includes a walk over the Scioto River via the pedestrian-only Dublin Link, the longest single-tower, S-shaped suspension bridge in the world.

Most tours can accommodate vegetarians with notice, and some sell out quickly; be prepared to book far in advance. Customized private tours are available.



## BOOK A TOUR

Scan the QR code to book a tour with Columbus Food Adventures.

# COLUMBUS' BEST RESTAURANTS

Our food scene is off the charts. Each year, *Columbus Monthly* ranks the top 10 restaurants in the area; here's the list for 2022, ranked using criteria based on deliciousness and creativity of the food, service, beverage programs, atmosphere and memorability.



## NO. 1 **Comune**

677 Parsons Ave., Columbus  
614-947-1012 | [comune-restaurant.com](http://comune-restaurant.com)

Since its inception, Comune has been daring to serve high-end, plant-based fare and funky wines on a corner that's not in the heart of the Short North or Bridge Park. Executive chef Matt Harper works closely with local purveyors such as Three Creeks Produce and Hershberger's Farm to source ingredients. Indeed, the best dish we ate all year started as a watermelon from Hershberger's. The watermelon carpaccio is emblematic of what makes Comune special: Harper and team take high-quality produce and, using simple preparations, create dishes that surprise vegetarians and omnivores alike while walking the flavor tightrope perfectly and without using meat substitutes, like seitan, as a crutch. Combine that with a hip, Scandinavian restaurant design, knowledgeable servers, thoughtful wine and cocktail menus, and a great patio, and you have a winner.

## NO. 2 **Veritas**

11 W. Gay St., Columbus  
614-745-3868 | [veritasrestaurant.com](http://veritasrestaurant.com)

Josh Dalton—the adventurous restaurateur who launched edgy Veritas Tavern in Delaware a decade ago—is not one to rest on his laurels. Working with his talented team at the refined downtown Columbus rebirth of modernist Veritas, Dalton is more liable to transform his laurels into a tincture emulsified in heritage pork fat that blots a reimagined pozole topped with crispy hominy flakes. Over the coming year, the restless chef-owner will intersperse his seasonal menus with monthlong supper club events designed to transport diners to far-flung locales; recent offerings have explored Spanish, Mexican and Nordic cuisine. Anticipate deluxe ingredients, artful platings and, as Dalton says, “an experience you’ll remember.”

## NO. 3 **Chapman's Eat Market**

739 S. Third St., Columbus  
614-444-0917 | [eatchapmans.com](http://eatchapmans.com)

When *The New York Times* awarded Chapman's Eat Market a spot on its list of “the 50 places in America we’re most excited about” in 2021, people noticed. It’s worth the fuss. By combining the breezy mood of a hip, no-dress-code cocktail lounge with excellent service and “comfort foods from around the world” that arrive dressed-up but are far from dainty, Chapman's specializes in a festive, widely approachable style of fine dining. Its visual aesthetic is reflected on the eclectic menu. While rife with offerings rooted in classics, the eatery's drinks and dishes are abloom with Chapman's own style.

## NO. 4

### **The Refectory Restaurant and Wine Shop**

1092 Bethel Road, Upper Arlington  
614-451-9774 | [refectory.com](http://refectory.com)

Good luck trying to name every once-trendy restaurant that has come and gone over the last four decades. Much easier to name: The one local restaurant with a link to French cooking colossus Paul Bocuse. That's the Refectory, whose longtime chef Richard Blondin studied under Bocuse. Blondin's precise, technique-heavy creations and beautiful plating are major reasons why the Refectory has been synonymous with fine dining in Columbus for 40-plus years. Other draws include impeccable service; a duly celebrated wine selection; a tasting menu and a la carte options; and the serene setting of a converted 19th-century church with stained glass windows, exposed brick, soaring rafter beams and date-night lighting.



NO. 5

**Wolf's Ridge Brewing**215 N. Fourth St., Columbus | 614-429-3936 | [wolfsridgebrewing.com](http://wolfsridgebrewing.com)

Since its inception in 2013, Wolf's Ridge has been a solid triple threat: an award-winning restaurant led by an accomplished culinary team; a taproom that's constantly abuzz with live music, special beer releases and community fun; and a lauded brewery, led by head brewer Chris Davison, that nails style after style of brew. Roll all of this into a gorgeous downtown location with polished wooden floors, exposed brick and a lush greenery wall, and it's a destination that shows off what Columbus does best. Recently, the restaurant has added a fourth threat: a dynamic cocktail menu by beverage director Travis Owens.



NO. 6

**Rooh**685 N. High St., Columbus  
614-972-8678 | [roohcolumbus.com](http://roohcolumbus.com)

It's no secret that a Eurocentric perspective has dominated Columbus' fine-dining scene. Enter Rooh, offering self-described "progressive" Indian food that playfully draws on tradition while creating something new, shedding a contemporary light on the cuisine. Equally of note is the fantastic beverage program, whose rotating cocktail menu is grouped according to the six rasas, or tastes, of ancient ayurvedic wisdom: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, pungent and astringent. Each drink, often served in fun glassware, is designed with the same care and attention as the food. Place all of this in a colorful and cleanly designed Short North spot, and it's a shoo-in as one of the city's best offerings.

NO. 8

**Novella Osteria**170 W. Olentangy St., Powell  
614-389-6698 | [novellaosteria.com](http://novellaosteria.com)

In a city flush with great Italian eateries, it takes a bit of craftsmanship and flair to stand out, and relative newcomer Novella Osteria offers just that. Open since the fall of 2020, chef Matthew Phelan's Powell eatery blends classic Old World Italian flavors with modern techniques. The result is a veritable feast for pasta aficionados. Diners have readily welcomed his menu, which balances care and attention to detail with a little bit of daring. Guests are best advised to work their way through his house-made pastas, although don't ignore the specials. Want to get a taste of it all? Make a reservation on Tuesday, when Phelan offers a special five-course pasta tasting menu.

NO. 7

**Goodale Station**77 E. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus  
614-227-9400 | [goodalestation.com](http://goodalestation.com)

Hotel restaurants are great, but they often ask chefs to think inside the box. Not so at Goodale Station, the independent rooftop restaurant and bar that tops the downtown Canopy by Hilton hotel. Here, veteran Columbus chef Jonathan Olson has the creative freedom to go where his imagination and seasonal ingredients take him. There's nowhere to hide on this super-tight, New American menu of five starters, six sharable plates and six mains, which is intentional. "The vast majority of our items, even some of the breads we're making in-house, pretty much everything's made from scratch. I'm really just trying to focus in on ingredients, locally as much as possible," Olson says.

NO. 9

**Watershed Kitchen & Bar**1145 Chesapeake Ave., Columbus | 614-357-1936  
[watersheddistillery.com/kitchenandbar](http://watersheddistillery.com/kitchenandbar)

Watershed Distillery elicited plenty of smiles when the nascent company first released its terrific gins in 2010. Seven years later, sister concept Watershed Kitchen & Bar gave us more reasons to grin when it began serving delicious meals in a lively, modern distillery setting that coheres with the restaurant's stylish farm-to-table cuisine. The pandemic closed it for more than a year; a few months after reopening, its original executive chef left to focus on other ventures. Cheers, then, to Watershed for gaining altitude again with Matt Howes, a former sous chef now at the helm as executive chef. As always, Watershed's lavish, well-designed cocktail menu is among the best in town.

NO. 10

**Bonifacio**1577 King Ave., Columbus  
614-914-8115  
[bonifacio614.com](http://bonifacio614.com)

Just before the city's first full-service Filipino restaurant opened in 2016, chef MJ Hernandez says he met Bonifacio owner Krizzia Yanga and "offered my life and soul, essentially." Hernandez was tired of seeing Filipino restaurants in the U.S. close after just a year, he says. Today, Bonifacio is still going strong. Hernandez says 2018 to 2019 was a turning point, because it's when the Grandview-adjacent restaurant leaned into pre-colonial Filipino traditions. First came more regular kamayan dinners, a family-style feast served on banana leaves and eaten without utensils. Now held weekly on Thursdays and Sundays, Bonifacio's Boodle Nights—another name for kamayan—are among the most enjoyable experiences in town, especially when accompanied by its creative cocktails.



# AROUND THE WORLD IN 20 BITES

Where to find the most authentic cuisines from across the globe, right here in Columbus

As Columbus' population has diversified in recent years, its restaurant scene has followed the trend. Even locals are often surprised by how entire sections of town have become vibrant, multicultural neighborhoods dotted with colorful immigrant restaurants and bustling international markets.

What's perhaps more astonishing is that these areas represent but a fraction of the cultural cuisine found throughout the city. Veterans, such as Mi Li Café (Vietnamese, North Side) and Bangkok Grocery & Restaurant (Thai, South Side), remain strong even as newcomers debut weekly, making Central Ohio more spoiled for culinary choice than ever.



## African

Perhaps no category has seen as much growth in recent years as African cuisine, and within it no country is better represented than Somalia. At least 20 distinct Somali restaurants are available, but none have received as much regional and national attention as Hoyo's Kitchen (North Market and North Market Bridge Park). Counted among *Eater's* list of the Midwest's 38 essential restaurants, Hoyo's sets itself apart with friendly service, cut-above culinary technique and superior sourcing. Standout dishes include chicken suqaar, goat with rice and the delectable sambusas.

Ethiopian has also seen a significant uptick in representation, primarily on the East Side and in Whitehall, with several options sharing a Hamilton Road strip with a wide array of Ethiopian markets and bakeries. Lalibela is there and is arguably the best of the bunch.

Standing apart from the crowd on Cleveland Avenue, Addis Restaurant (North Side) serves the intriguing hybrid cuisine of ethnic Somalis who have lived in Ethiopia. The end result is clearly Ethiopian with a delicious spin. Try the kitfo and the zillzill tibs, and if you're looking for an experience, schedule a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

Nearby Dabakh has made a name for its enticing take on Senegalese food and has developed a devoted following for its dibbe (creole spiced lamb). A few miles north, Wycliff's Kitchen (Northeast Side) brings Kenya to Central Ohio and is known for its savory karanga ngombe—a crowd-pleasing Kenyan beef stew—as well as its exceptional nyama choma—grilled goat (weekends only).

*Opposite page, top, Arepazo; below, left to right, Bonifacio, Yemeni Restaurant, Ena's Caribbean Kitchen*

## Latin and South American

Caribbean restaurants seem to come and go, but Ena's Caribbean Kitchen in Linden has outlasted them all. Known for its spicy jerk chicken and hearty oxtail stew, Ena's is also one of the only restaurants in town to offer the savory, meat-filled pastries known as Jamaican Patties.

Brazilian Grill & Bakery (Northeast Side) is the city's first foray outside of the steakhouse genre of Brazilian cuisine; there you'll find hearty rice-and-bean bowls topped with a rotating array of South American proteins. The picanha—grilled and sliced sirloin cap—is a favorite, as is the calabresa sausage.

Continuing with South American, Los Galapagos (West Side) livens up its quirky neighborhood setting with such South American specialties as bandeja paisa, a hearty, rustic Colombian platter composed of fried pork belly, sausage, fried egg, rice, beans, plantains and more. The recently debuted Kon Ko Lon (West Side) is off to a promising start with its ambitious Peruvian menu. Early favorites include the crave-able aji de gallina (garlicky shredded chicken stew).

Venezuelan cuisine has long been a part of the fabric of the city thanks to Arepazo. Originally opened as a small, downtown Columbus lunch spot, the popularity of owners Carlos and Carolina Gutierrez's signature arepas has evolved into a Brewery District location with more broadly Latino-inspired fare and a full bar.

## Asian

Among the cuisines of the continent, none have grown in local representation more than Nepali/Himalayan. Three years ago, there were no standalone establishments to speak of; now, Himalayan Grille (Gahanna), Namaste (Northeast Side) and Everest Cuisine (Worthington) all provide a full, sit-down, Himalayan dining experience.

Overshadowing them all in reception, if not seat count, is Momo Ghar, a humble dumpling stand that has evolved into a stall at the North Market. Its most popular dish is jhol momo—handmade chicken curry dumplings in a spicy tomato sauce—and they have not only captured the minds and stomachs of Columbus, but also garnered national accolades from both *Eater* and the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*.

Filipino cuisine has also come on strong, with both Bonifacio (Fifth by Northwest) and Kuya Ian's Bistro (Westerville) debuting over the last couple of years. Bonifacio projects a more upscale approach to the genre, offering not only favorites such as adobo chicken, but also a full bar menu with a wide selection of craft beers and a bespoke cocktail list that makes extensive use of Southeast Asian ingredients. Kuya Ian's contrasts this with its humbler setting and casual, diner-like operations, but nonetheless cranks out delicious renditions of island standards, such as crispy pork lechon.

## Middle Eastern

Yemeni cuisine has made a big splash with the local foodie set through chef/owner Najmeddine Gabbar's creations at Yemeni Restaurant (Northeast Side). His hummus with lamb is a must-have, and his savory bubbling lamb stew, known as fahsa, and its accompanying freshly baked flatbread make for one of the most satisfying experiences in its price range. If a more traditional Middle Eastern menu is desired, look no further than Mazah (Grandview) and its Lebanese-influenced Mediterranean fare. The kibbeh is a specialty, and the falafel and shawarma are fan favorites.

Story writer Bethia Woolf is the founder of Columbus Food Adventures, which offers an Alt Eats tour of international cuisines.

# TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Can't decide on just one cuisine? These local food halls and markets offer a little bit of everything to please even the pickiest palates.

If 2017–2019 was the era of new rooftop patios in Central Ohio, the 2020s ushered in a food hall/city market boom. Dublin, Hilliard and New Albany, as well as the Columbus neighborhoods of Franklin Park and Italian Village, all welcomed new gathering spaces in recent years, joining the grand dame of them all, the historic North Market in downtown Columbus.

*Note: Turnover at food halls and markets can be high, so be sure to check each destination's website for the most up-to-date info on what's available.*

## Bubbly Hall

6031 Central College Road, New Albany; [bubblyhall.com](http://bubblyhall.com)

**About the building:** New build

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** Fay's Crêpes, Hoyo's Kitchen, Just Chicken, Kiku Sushi Bar, Mr. Hummus Grill & Pizza, The Pit BBQ Grille, Seoul Food on the Go; seasonal Mobile Monday events feature rotating food trucks from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Beverage options:** A cocktail bar and wine bar are available.

**Retail options:** Rentable booths feature a variety of pop-up-style shops, and Bubbly Boutique sells flowers, gifts, consignment pieces from local artisans and more.

**Outdoor spaces:** 11,000-plus square feet of outdoor patio and green space

**What sets it apart:** There's nothing like it in New Albany, featuring 15,000 square feet of interior space, a 2,300-square-foot event venue called the Rendezvous Room, and a very diverse lineup of cuisines.



## Budd Dairy Food Hall

1086 N. Fourth St., Columbus; [budddairyfoodhall.com](http://budddairyfoodhall.com)

**About the building:** Renovated 19th-century dairy

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** Alphabetical, Boni: Filipino Street Food, Borgata Pizza, The Cheesecake Girl, Cluck Norris, Cousins Maine Lobster, Modern Southern Table, Pokebap, Tacos Rudos

**Beverage options:** Bars on three levels provide ample beer, wine and cocktail offerings.

**Retail options:** N/A

**Outdoor spaces:** A first-floor beer garden, plus a rooftop bar

**What sets it apart:** The food hall boasts a stunning renovation, full service by Cameron Mitchell staffers and nice rooftop vistas with views of the neighborhood and downtown.



## Center Street Market

5354 Center St., Hilliard  
[facebook.com/centerstreetmkt](https://facebook.com/centerstreetmkt)

**About the building:** New build replacing a NAPA Auto store

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** Al's Delicious Popcorn, Bakes by Lo, The Cheesecake Girl, Coffee Connections, Dumplings of Fury, Hot Mess, Meatball Mafia, Pitabilities, Rime Time, Two Step Tacos

**Beverage options:** Crooked Can Brewing Co. is the cornerstone vendor.

**Retail options:** N/A

**Outdoor spaces:** A large patio/beer garden

**What sets it apart:** The open-air space, located in the heart of Old Hilliard, is part of a DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) that allows for open-carry of alcoholic beverages purchased from approved vendors.



## North Market

59 Spruce St., Columbus; [northmarket.org/location/downtown-market](http://northmarket.org/location/downtown-market)

**About the building:** Renovated 1990s warehouse

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** American Nut Co., Barrel & Boar, Black Radish Creamery, Brëzel, Bubbles Tea & Juice Co., Coast to Local Market, Dos Hermanos, Firdous Express, Flavor & Fire, Flavors of India, Foxes Bagel & Deli, Green Olive Co., Hot Chicken Takeover, Hoyo's Kitchen, Hubert's Polish Kitchen, Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams, Lan Viet Market, Momo Ghar, Nida's Sushi, Omega Artisan Baking, Park Street Poultry & Game, Pastaria, The Pastry Factory, Saddleberk, Sarefino's, Satori Ramen Bar, Stauf's Coffee Roasters, Willowbeez SoulVeg

**Beverage options:** The Barrel and Bottle offers wine, beer and cocktails.

**Retail options:** Black Radish Creamery, Coastal to Local Market, Green Olive Co., Market Blooms, Mini-Super, North Market Spices, Park Street Poultry & Game, Saddleberk

**Outdoor spaces:** Expansive patios on both sides of the building

**What sets it apart:** The city's longest-running public market was established in 1876 near High Street and nearly fell victim to a fire and changing shopping styles in the mid-1900s. The nonprofit North Market Development Authority was established in 1988 to restore the institution and has managed it ever since.

## North Market Bridge Park

6750 Longshore St., Dublin

[northmarket.org/location/bridge-park-market](http://northmarket.org/location/bridge-park-market)

**About the building:** New build

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** Bake Me Happy, Bread Bakery + Café, Bubbles Tea & Juice Co., Coastal Local Seafood, Dos Hermanos Tacos, Falafel Kitchen, Gallo's Pizzeria, Hoyo's Kitchen, Lan Viet, Pasta Ditoni's, The Pit BBQ Grille, Saddleberk

**Beverage options:** Market Bar offers beer, wine and cocktails to enjoy there or take away.

**Retail options:** Saddleberk, Coastal Local Seafood

**Outdoor spaces:** Market Bar's patio, bistro tables along the building and some outdoor counters

**What sets it apart:** This state-of-the-art public market serves as a one-stop shop for proteins, fresh seafood, baked goods, wine, grocery items and lots of prepared foods.

## East Market

212 Kelton Ave., Columbus; [eastmarketcolumbus.com](http://eastmarketcolumbus.com)

**About the building:** Renovated 1880s trolley car barn

**Prepared foods/restaurants:** American Nut Co., The Butcher & Grocer, Creole2Geaux, Just Chicken, Kosō, NOLA Daq Shack, Taste of Greece & Moroccan Street Food, Too Good Eats, Winston's Coffee & Waffles, Yellow Brick Pizza; coming soon: The Pit BBQ Grille

**Beverage options:** The Railhouse is a full bar on the main floor; Switch is a speakeasy-style bar.

**Retail options:** The Butcher & Grocer, The Plant Gays

**Outdoor spaces:** An elevated patio offers seating; a beer garden is planned.

**What sets it apart:** Original details like trolley rails in the floors and exposed beams provide charm and character; expansion plans will add additional space and a Columbus Brewing Co. taproom.

**“MY FAVORITE ASPECT [OF LIVING HERE] IS HAVING ALL THE BICYCLE TRAILS AND PARKS TO USE. I LIVE JUST OUTSIDE 270, SO IT’S STILL COLUMBUS, AND I CAN BIKE THROUGH THE WHOLE CITY ON BIKE TRAILS.”**

**JACCI DELANEY**  
Jacci Delaney Glass |  
Artist, Director and Owner

*Moved here in 2011  
from Peoria, Illinois*

# FOR EVERY SEASON

Turn to a Metro Park during any one of Ohio’s four distinctive seasons; find a full listing of Metro Parks and their activities at [metroparks.net](https://www.metro-parks.net).

Whether it’s 100 degrees or -1, there’s something to do at Franklin County Metro Parks. Activities like fishing, hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, geocaching, sledding and more offer options for all ages. And let’s not forget: Baby bison are waiting to be discovered!

## SPRING

Salamanders and wood frogs are just as excited for spring as we are. These amphibians prep their summer bods during the spring in vernal pools. Wood frogs, for example, nearly freeze solid in the winter. Watch them thaw while the salamanders squiggle to life during a tour of vernal pools at Glacier Ridge in Plain City or Highbanks in Lewis Center.

After you’ve scoped out new life, honor the old at burial mounds associated with the Adena and Hopewell Native American cultures at Highbanks. There’s also one at Blacklick Woods in Reynoldsburg; its Blacklick Circle was discovered in 2017.

As the weather warms up, while away an afternoon watching the flowers grow at Inniswood. This 123-acre garden tucked into a Westerville nature preserve features blooms from more than 2,000 species of plants—like roses, herbs and conifer trees—that come alive in the spring.

## SUMMER

Battelle Darby Creek in Galloway is home to 11 female and one male bison. The lucky fella was introduced to the herd late in August 2017, and, thanks to the birds and the bees and one very strong stork, the park saw the arrival of its first baby bison in late spring 2018.

Battelle Darby Creek also is one of eight Metro Parks waterways that offer canoe and kayak access points. Bring your boat of choice—and a fishing rod or two—and hit the water there or at Highbanks, Scioto Audubon in downtown Columbus, Prairie Oaks in West Jefferson, Walnut Woods or Three Creeks in Groveport, Scioto Grove in Grove City or newcomer Quarry Trails in Columbus, near Grandview, which opened in late 2021. Fishing from the shoreline is also permitted at Slate Run in Canal Winchester, Clear Creek in Lancaster, Homestead in Hilliard and Sharon Woods in Westerville. Two parks offer mountain biking: Chestnut Ridge in Carroll and Quarry Trails. At Chestnut Ridge, expert riders will enjoy the More Cowbell trail, while newbies should try Dirt School. At Quarry Trails, single-track mountain bike trails, under construction as of press time, meander over the northwest corner of the park.

Guided night hikes throughout the summer abound at multiple parks, but only two of them offer overnight camping: Scioto Grove and Battelle Darby Creek. Camping along their backpacking trails is free, but reservations are required.



Highbanks Metro Park



Olentangy Trail

## Greenway Trails

There's no shortage of multi-use trails in Central Ohio. For more information, visit [centralohiogreenways.com](http://centralohiogreenways.com).

**Alum Creek:** 24.4 miles, paved, from Westerville to Three Creeks

**Big Walnut Trail:** 7.6 miles, paved, from Hoover Reservoir to Inniswood Metro Gardens, with additional segments in Gahanna and southeast Columbus

**Blacklick Creek:** 15.8 miles, paved, from Blacklick Woods to Three Creeks

**Camp Chase:** 33.9 miles, paved, from Madison County into central Columbus; part of the Ohio to Erie Trail

**Darby Creek:** 8.5 miles, gravel, from Prairie Oaks to Battelle Darby Creek

**Downtown Connector:** 4.9 miles, paved, along I-670 from Fort Hayes to Alum Creek Trail

**Heritage:** 6.4 miles, paved, from Old Hilliard to Plain City

**Ohio to Erie:** 330 miles (about 50 miles in Central Ohio), paved, from the Ohio River in Cincinnati to Lake Erie in Cleveland

**Olentangy:** 14.8 miles, paved, from Worthington to downtown Columbus

**Scioto:** 10.2 miles, paved, along the Scioto River from Grandview to the Brewery District

**T.J. Evans:** 14.2 miles, paved, from Newark to Johnstown

## FALL

In total, Metro Parks offers 20 natural-area parks throughout Central Ohio; that's more than 28,400 acres of land with 230-plus miles of trails. Those trails are where you want to be in the fall as the foliage changes and the wildlife comes out to play or, more likely, get a move on.

At Prairie Oaks, watch migrating waterfowl from a bridge that connects the Darby Bend Lakes, or spot the majesty of a buck deer along Darby Creek Greenway Trail. Watch a sunset at Pickerington Ponds in Canal Winchester. Walk among the sublime goldenrods of Walnut Woods. Whatever you do, don't forget your camera to capture it all.

At Slate Run, the family can visit a historic farm, then see a trail of Ohio's favorite trees (hickory, sugar maple and more) put on their finest fall show. Looking for a scenic drive? Head to Blendon Woods in northeast Columbus for its annual Fall Driving Tour beginning in October. You can also say good-bye to migrating birds surrounded by a landscape of leaves, wetlands, the downtown Columbus skyline and a free rock-climbing wall at Scioto Audubon.

Want to bring Fluffy or Fido along? Leashed cats and dogs are permitted in certain areas and on designated trails at all 20 Metro Parks. (Service animals are welcome in all areas, of course.) For pups, there are also fenced dog

parks at Glacier Ridge, Heritage Trail in Hilliard, Prairie Oaks, Rocky Fork in Westerville, Scioto Audubon, Three Creeks and Walnut Woods; Battelle Darby Creek and Prairie Oaks both have dog-friendly swim areas.

## WINTER

Winter may seem like time to hibernate at home, but when it snows, the parks are just getting warmed up.

You can cross-country ski or snowshoe at any park except Inniswood, round the icy pond rinks at Battelle Darby Creek or Blendon Woods, or coast the sledding hills at many of the Region's options.

Many parks participate in a Winter Hike series, like the one at Three Creeks, featuring 1-, 3- or 5.6-mile hikes along the frozen creekside. It's a brisk walk followed, of course, by hot food and drink.

The parks also offer plenty of chances for indoor activities. The Blacklick Woods, Blendon Woods, Battelle Darby Creek, Highbanks and Scioto Audubon nature centers, for example, host kids' programming, where the little ones can learn about animals that thrive on snow days. And at Scioto Grove, bring the whole family to celebrate Groundhog Day.

Whether he sees his shadow or not, it doesn't matter at the Metro Parks. Every season's a stunner.

**"HAVING SPENT OUR ENTIRE LIVES IN THE SOUTH—FLORIDA, VIRGINIA, TEXAS—MY WIFE AND I WERE NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT [IN OHIO]. THE CHANGE OF SEASONS HAS BEEN REMARKABLE."**

**TOM SCHMID**  
Columbus Zoo  
and Aquarium |  
President and CEO

*Moved here in 2021 from  
Corpus Christi, Texas*

# ANNUAL EVENTS

There's plenty to do all year long in the Columbus Region. Here are some of the area's top draws; find annual sporting events on page 97, and find more things to see and do at [experiencecolumbus.com](https://experiencecolumbus.com) or by scanning the QR code on page 114.

## SPRING

### Equine Affaire

April | Ohio Expo Center

A top gathering and exposition of all things equine, this event offers education, entertainment and shopping opportunities.

[equineaffaire.com](https://equineaffaire.com)

### Columbus International Film & Animation Festival

April | throughout Columbus

The country's oldest film festival has, since 1952, recognized the top educational and documentary films during a week of workshops, screenings and panels.

[columbusfilm.org](https://columbusfilm.org)

### Ohioana Book Festival

April/May | locations vary

Going virtual in recent years, this weekend celebrating Ohio authors and illustrators features panels, readings and more.

[ohioana.org](https://ohioana.org)

### COSI Science Festival

May | throughout Columbus

This citywide celebration showcases science and technology through partnerships with local companies like Battelle, Bath & Body Works Foundation and Honda. Festivities are capped off with interactive demonstrations and activities at the Big Science Celebration at COSI and adjacent Genoa Park.

[cosiscifest.org](https://cosiscifest.org)



### Asian Festival

May | Franklin Park

Memorial Day weekend sees more than 100,000 attendees enjoying the festival's Dragonboat race, authentic Asian games and food, martial arts demonstrations, cultural performances and more, though recent years have seen a virtual format.

[asian-festival.org](https://asian-festival.org)

### Ohio Black Expo

May | downtown Columbus

Celebrate #blackexpollence on Memorial Day weekend while supporting Ohio Black Expo's mission to empower and improve the quality of life for Black Ohioans. The weekend includes workshops, networking and the Riverfront Culture Fest, featuring musical performances.

[ohioblackexpo.com](https://ohioblackexpo.com)

## SUMMER

### Schnormeier Gardens Open House

June | Gambier

Once a year, these stunning private gardens open to the public for tours. Spots are available Thursdays through Sundays through the month of June; reservations (\$50 per car) can be purchased starting May 1 each year.

[schnormeiergardens.org](https://schnormeiergardens.org)

### Columbus Arts Festival

June | Scioto Mile

Both sides of the Scioto riverfront become a riot of color and texture as hundreds of artists set up shop in the largest art gallery the city has to offer.

[columbusartsfestival.org](https://columbusartsfestival.org)

### Columbus Pride Festival

June | Goodale Park

Each year, Stonewall Columbus puts on one of the largest LGBTQ pride events in the Midwest. Come for the massive Saturday parade; stay for musical performances, comedy acts, food and vendors.

[columbuspride.org](https://columbuspride.org)

### Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival

June | Creekside District

Cocktail and wine tastings, carnival rides and a Family Fun Zone join the area's best blues and jazz musicians for more than 90 hours of live music in Gahanna.

[creeksidebluesandjazz.com](https://creeksidebluesandjazz.com)

## SUMMER (CONTINUED)

**JuneteenthOhio Festival***June | Genoa Park*

This weekend of music, food and fun honors the emancipation of the last enslaved people in the South. The festival includes a college and career fair, cultural marketplace, kids' activities and talent shows.

[juneteenthohio.com](http://juneteenthohio.com)**London Strawberry Festival***June | downtown London*

Families head to historic downtown London for a parade, car and motorcycle shows, games and food. Every vendor features, of course, something strawberry.

[londonstrawberryfestival.com](http://londonstrawberryfestival.com)**Origins Game Fair***June | Greater Columbus Convention Center*

Demo new games, attend seminars and catch flicks at the film festival during this event focused on tabletop gaming. Other programming includes an art expo, comedy shows, a costume contest, electronic gaming and craft activities.

[originsgamefair.com](http://originsgamefair.com)**Comfest***June | Goodale Park*

Enjoy art, crafts, music and community in Goodale Park during this "party with a purpose" that celebrates local performers, artists, community organizations and volunteers.

[comfest.com](http://comfest.com)**Red, White and BOOM!***July | downtown Columbus*

Downtown's patriotic block party the day before Independence Day features a parade, children's play area, multiple music stages and plenty of food vendors. Stick around for the 10 p.m. fireworks show—it's the largest in the state.

[redwhiteandboom.org](http://redwhiteandboom.org)**Doo Dah Parade***July | Short North Arts District*

This unconventional Fourth of July parade has celebrated the First Amendment and freedom of expression for nearly 40 years and is accompanied by a block party in Goodale Park.

[doodahparade.com](http://doodahparade.com)**Westerville Music & Arts Festival***July | Heritage Park*

For nearly 50 years, Westerville Area Chamber's annual festival celebrates local musicians and fine artists and includes a youth art exhibition.

[westervillechamber.com/music-arts-festival](http://westervillechamber.com/music-arts-festival)**Jazz & Rib Fest***July | Scioto Mile*

Flanking both banks of the Scioto River is this annual homage to "hot ribs and cool jazz." Twenty-some pit masters from around the country compete for "Best Ribs" bragging rights, while dozens of jazz musicians and ensembles serenade the crowds from three stages.

[hotribscooljazz.org](http://hotribscooljazz.org)**Ohio State Fair***July/August | Ohio State Fairgrounds*

Since 1850, the Ohio State Fair has been a family favorite event. More than 50 rides, a Midway full of quintessential fair food, stages with free entertainment, national touring musical acts, educational displays, fine arts shows, sports competitions, a petting zoo and so much more make this one of the main events of the summer.

[ohiostatefair.com](http://ohiostatefair.com)**Dublin Irish Festival***August | Coffman Park*

Celebrate Celtic and Gaelic culture through food, dance, music, games and commerce in Central Ohio's own Dublin at the largest three-day Irish festival in the world.

[dublinirishfestival.org](http://dublinirishfestival.org)**Festival Latino***August | Genoa Park*

This event has been showcasing Latin American culture through music, dance, visual arts and food in downtown Columbus for more than 25 years.

[festivallatino.net](http://festivallatino.net)**Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival***August | Huber Park*

Head to the birthplace of the commercial tomato to experience its beer garden, car show, rides, performances, games, crafts, kids' activities and, of course, a tomato contest and a dodgeball-style "tomato war."

[reymatofest.com](http://reymatofest.com)**Millersport Sweet Corn Festival***August | Historic Lions Park*

There's no sweeter way to enjoy the last days of summer than this celebration of locally grown corn, an annual tradition for more than 75 years. But don't cut yourself short; enjoy rides, music, parades, contests, a 5K, a tractor pull and more.

[sweetcornfest.com](http://sweetcornfest.com)**BIA Parade of Homes***August/September | location varies*

Get inspired on this walking tour of newly built homes in different communities each year. Dates for this late-summer event vary, but usually begin or end in September.

[biaparade.com](http://biaparade.com)

## FALL

**Greek Festival***September | Short North*

Greek food, vendors, performers, cooking demos and more can be found at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral and surrounding streets over Labor Day weekend. Opa!

[columbusgreekfestival.com](http://columbusgreekfestival.com)**Obetz ZucchiniFest***September | Fortress Obetz*

Regional and national musical acts, a car show, a parade, arts and crafts vendors, rides and more all headline this free, family-friendly event on Labor Day weekend.

[obetzucchiniFest.com](http://obetzucchiniFest.com)**Upper Arlington Labor Day Arts Festival***September | Northam Park*

For more than 50 years, Upper Arlington's Monday festival showcases the work of 200-some artists and vendors. Performances and hands-on activity areas make the event immersive.

[upperarlingtonoh.gov/event/labor-day-arts-festival](http://upperarlingtonoh.gov/event/labor-day-arts-festival)**Columbus Oktoberfest***September | Ohio Expo Center*

Shop the Art & Craft Marktplatz and Merchant Market, chow down on kraut, brats and schnitzel and enjoy steins of bier at Columbus' version of the European classic. The Kinderplatz area has fun activities for the whole family.

[columbusoktoberfest.com](http://columbusoktoberfest.com)**Marion Popcorn Festival***September | downtown Marion*

There are rides to be had and popcorn to be enjoyed, but this festival—which draws crowds of 250,000 annually—is known for its free entertainment, parade and title of the largest popcorn festival in the world.

[popcornfestival.com](http://popcornfestival.com)**Lithopolis Honeyfest***September | downtown Lithopolis*

This oh-so-sweet fest celebrates the mighty honeybee with arts and crafts exhibitors, a honey bake-off, photography and honey competitions, music, kids' crafts and even bee beards.

[centralohiobeekeeper.com](http://centralohiobeekeeper.com)**Columbus Italian Festival***October | Italian Village*

Just east of the Short North, Italian Village plays host to some of the best Italian food and entertainment around during this festival. A bocce ball competition, kids' activities, Italian karaoke, language lessons and samples of Italian spirits provide entertainment for all.

[columbusitalianfestival.com](http://columbusitalianfestival.com)**Cartoon Crossroads Columbus***October | throughout Columbus*

This free comics, arts and animation festival, also known as CXC, features interactive panels, presentations, artist spotlights, special guests and more at locations including the Columbus Metropolitan Library – Main Library, Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, Columbus College of Art & Design and Columbus Museum of Art.

[cartooncrossroadscolumbus.org](http://cartooncrossroadscolumbus.org)**Fashion Week Columbus***October | throughout Columbus*

The city's most fashionable philanthropic event spans a full week, showcases the work of local and emerging designers and raises money to provide scholarships to fashion design students.

[fashionweekcolumbus.org](http://fashionweekcolumbus.org)**Circleville Pumpkin Show***October | downtown Circleville*

Fall doesn't get any bigger—literally—than this fest, known for its delicious pumpkin treats, a pumpkin pie eating contest, carving demonstrations and a competition for

the largest pumpkin, with winners usually coming in at 1,700 pounds or more.

[pumpkinshow.com](http://pumpkinshow.com)**HighBall Halloween***October | Short North Arts District*

Join 30,000 revelers dressed to the nines in creative costumes at this Short North block party with live entertainment, a costume competition, a fashion show and more.

[highballhalloween.com](http://highballhalloween.com)

## WINTER

**Wildlights***November-January |**Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

Check out stunning holiday light displays, enjoy a petting zoo and visit the animals during the zoo's special evening hours.

[columbuszoo.org](http://columbuszoo.org)**"The Nutcracker"***December | Ohio Theatre*

Join BalletMet dancers as Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the rest in this Columbus holiday tradition.

[balletmet.org](http://balletmet.org)**African American Heritage Festival***February/March |**Ohio State University campus*

For more than 40 years, this festival has offered talent showcases, cultural awareness programs, entertaining performances and more.

[heritagefestival.osu.edu](http://heritagefestival.osu.edu)**EVENTS AND FESTIVALS**

Scan the QR code to learn more about events and festivals in the Columbus Region.

# AREA ATTRACTIONS

There's plenty to see and do in the Columbus Region. We've rounded up local favorites among residents and visitors alike.

## ENTERTAINMENT AND GAMES

### Cherry Valley Hotel

Enjoy the on-site arboretum and botanical garden, miles of walking and biking trails and more at this hotel with pet-friendly options. Its 200 rooms are newly renovated, as is much of the rest of the property. An on-site restaurant, pub and tap room (featuring Homestead Beer Co. draughts) offer food and bev options throughout the day.

2299 Cherry Valley Road, Newark,  
740-788-1200

[cherryvalleylodge.com](http://cherryvalleylodge.com)

### DogHouse Columbus Hotel

Scotland's BrewDog brewery opened its U.S. headquarters and what it calls "the world's first craft beer hotel" in Canal Winchester in 2018. The 32-room hotel, which also includes an on-site brewery, taproom/restaurant and craft beer museum, offers amenities such as a beer tap in every room and a beer fridge in the showers. And with a name like BrewDog, it's no surprise that the property is dog-friendly.

96 Gender Road, Canal Winchester,  
614-908-3054

[brewdog.com/usa/hotels/usa/doghouse-columbus](http://brewdog.com/usa/hotels/usa/doghouse-columbus)

### Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs

This "racino" features 2,100 video slot machine-style games, an outdoor track with live harness racing May through September, year-round simulcast wagering, and several restaurants and bars.

6000 S. High St., Columbus,  
614-295-4700

[scioto Downs.com](http://scioto Downs.com)



*Clockwise from top,  
Eldorado Gaming Scioto  
Downs, Idea Foundry,  
Hollywood Casino*



### Hollywood Casino Columbus

Come for the games—there are nearly 2,000 slot and video poker machines, including a new smoking and gaming patio, 60-plus table games and a new high-limit table game selection—but stay to explore the six restaurants and take in free live entertainment, often by national acts. New this year, the casino's Barstool Sportsbook will offer sports betting.

200 Georgesville Road, Columbus,  
614-308-3333

[hollywoodcolumbus.com](http://hollywoodcolumbus.com)

### Idea Foundry

Learn a new skill at this Franklinton makerspace. Beginner-friendly classes and workshops introduce participants to stained glass, woodworking, welding and more, while membership options offer 24/7 access to spaces and tools ranging from a laser cutter and engraver to a CNC ShopBot, metal lathe, vacuum former and 3D printer. The building also offers coworking space rental.

421 W. State St., Columbus, 614-653-8068  
[ideafoundry.com](http://ideafoundry.com)

## LEGOLAND Discovery Center

Opened in 2018, this emporium dedicated to the plastic bricks loved by children and adults alike is a veritable wonderland of family-friendly fun. Build and test LEGO race cars, catch a film in the 4D cinema, test your builds on earthquake tables, explore the 1.5 million-brick MINILAND miniature replicas of Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, and more in this 36,000-square-foot dreamland. It's designed for kids ages 3 to 10, but grown-ups can get in on the fun with Adult Nights.

157 Easton Town Center, Columbus, 614-407-7721  
[legolanddiscoverycenter.com/columbus](http://legolanddiscoverycenter.com/columbus)

## Mad River Mountain

Ski, snowboard or snow tube the 20 trails before enjoying live entertainment in the evenings at the state's largest winter resort.

1000 Snow Valley Road, Zanesfield, 800-231-7669 | [skimadriver.com](http://skimadriver.com)

## Otherworld

Get lost in the nearly 50 rooms of this immersive art experience. More than 40 artists have filled the building's 32,000 square feet with large-scale installations that blend science fiction and fantasy. Otherworld comprises interactive and mixed reality playgrounds, secret passages, alien flora, light displays and more, all ready for you to explore.

5819 Chantry Drive, Columbus, 614-868-3631  
[otherworldohio.com](http://otherworldohio.com)

## Zoombezi Bay

Water slides, lazy and action rivers, a wave pool and Central Ohio's only water coaster are the perfect recipe for fun in the sun at this waterpark located adjacent to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Rent a cabana for the day or stay late for Summer Nights, featuring Dive-In Movies at the wave pool. In the fall, the park becomes ZOMBIEzi Bay, a horror theme park recommended for ages 13 and up with haunted houses, scare zones and amusement rides including a wooden rollercoaster.

4850 Powell Road, Powell, 614-724-3600  
[zoombezibay.columbuszoo.org](http://zoombezibay.columbuszoo.org)

## COLUMBUS DISTRICTS

### Arena District

Stretching from Front Street to Neil Avenue between Spring and Vine streets, the Arena District is so named for Nationwide Arena, which sits smack in the middle and hosts Blue Jackets hockey games, concerts and other events. Nearby, the Columbus Clippers play at Huntington Park, and newcomer Lower.com Field is home to the Columbus Crew soccer club. If you're not up for catching a game, you can enjoy a concert at one of three nearby venues. Those looking to bar-hop have plenty of options along Park, Vine and Front streets, and a new DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) allows for open-carry of alcoholic beverages purchased from participating bars on game days and during special events.

[arenadistrict.com](http://arenadistrict.com)

### Brewery District

Just west of German Village is the Brewery District. Its name is a nod to the pre-Prohibition breweries that once were abundant in the area; today, you'll find no shortage of friendly neighborhood bars and locally owned eateries. Catch a show at Shadowbox Live, the nation's largest resident theater ensemble featuring original musicals, combination sketch comedy and music shows, independent performing artists in its cabaret space, and more.

[columbusbrewerydistrict.com](http://columbusbrewerydistrict.com)

### Discovery District

So named for its abundance of educational institutions and museums, this eastern section of downtown is home to the Columbus College of Art & Design (and its notable Beeler Gallery, featuring contemporary and experimental exhibitions), Columbus State Community College, the Columbus Museum of Art, the Main Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Blockfort gallery and studio space, Topiary Park and more. Noteworthy historic sites include Kelton

House Museum & Garden, once part of the Underground Railroad, and Thurber House, a literary and educational center and museum in the former home of cartoonist James Thurber.

[discoverydistrictcolumbus.org](http://discoverydistrictcolumbus.org)

### Short North Arts District

With the highest concentration of bars, clubs and restaurants in the city—nearly 100—the stretch of High Street from King Avenue to Nationwide Boulevard known as the Short North Arts District is a destination unlike any other in the city. Dance the night away at LGBTQ+ clubs like Axis and Union Café, or enjoy local, regional or national acts onstage at Skully's Music-Diner. Sample flights at North High Brewing, enjoy craft cocktails at Denmark on High or grab a meal at any of the scores of noteworthy options. There's also the dozen-plus independent art galleries for which the district is named. They stay open late for Gallery Hop on the first Saturday of the month, when restaurants offer specials and street performers entertain the masses that gather to enjoy the revelry.

[shortnorth.org](http://shortnorth.org)



## HISTORICAL SITES AND MUSEUMS

**Columbus Museum of Art**

Noteworthy permanent and traveling exhibitions—plus a remarkable children's area—make CMA an icon in the city. See more on page 85.

480 E. Broad St., Columbus, 614-221-6801  
[columbusmuseum.org](http://columbusmuseum.org)

**COSI**

This top-rated science museum has mind-expanding exhibitions for everyone, including a state-of-the-art planetarium. Its one-of-a-kind partnership with the American Museum of Natural History brings two additional exhibition spaces to the center: The Dinosaur Gallery has loaned fossil specimens and interactive features, and the Exhibition Gallery hosts rotating curated exhibitions from the museum.

333 W. Broad St., Columbus, 614-228-2674  
[cosi.org](http://cosi.org)

**National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

The first national memorial honoring veterans across all branches of service and all eras of conflict, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum opened in Franklinton in 2018. More than the standard war memorial or military museum, the NVMM exists to tell the stories of the people who have served our country.

300 W. Broad St., Columbus, 614-362-2800  
[nationalvmm.org](http://nationalvmm.org)

**Ohio History Center and Ohio Village**

Reach way back into Ohio history—from the dinosaur ages to nearly modern times—to discover our roots. This enormous building is home to the Ohio History Connection and adjacent to Ohio Village, where visitors learn about life in the 19th century through historic interpreters.

800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 800-686-6124  
[ohiohistory.org](http://ohiohistory.org)



COSI

**Ohio Statehouse**

Tours of the Statehouse are free and offered daily. Ticketed seasonal tours—including the Halloween-appropriate Haunted Statehouse tours—are worth the price, too. A lower-level museum is a treasure trove of interactive exhibits that unlock the story of Ohio's legislature and of the building itself.

1 Capitol Square, Columbus, 614-752-9777  
[ohiostatehouse.org](http://ohiostatehouse.org)



Ohio Statehouse

**Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center**

Enjoy art exhibitions or make some art of your own through classes and workshops at this center run by the Columbus Recreation & Parks Department. Local artists teach seven- and eight-week classes in ceramics, painting, jewelry-making and more. Weeklong intensive workshops in the summer are taught by artists from across the country.

139 W. Main St., Columbus, 614-645-7047  
[culturalartscenteronline.org](http://culturalartscenteronline.org)

**The Works**

Branded as the Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology, this Smithsonian affiliate features art galleries, a glass-blowing studio, history exhibits and interactive science labs.

555 S. First St., Newark, 740-349-9277  
[attheworks.org](http://attheworks.org)

## PARKS, GARDENS AND FARMS

**Central Ohio Metro Parks**

This network of 20 natural areas, parks and preserves offers a variety of educational opportunities, naturalist-led events and hikes, camps and more. See more on page 110.

[metroparks.net](http://metroparks.net)

**Columbus Commons**

City-dwellers and suburbanites alike flock to this urban oasis for free concerts, festivals, the seasonal Food Truck Food Court and outdoor fitness classes.

Downtown Columbus, bordered by State, Third, Rich and High streets  
[columbuscommons.org](http://columbuscommons.org)

**Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**

The enormous Heart of Africa exhibit, where visitors can ride camels or feed giraffes, is wildly popular, as is the new Adventure Cove, supporting the zoo's sea lion rehabilitation efforts, but the entire zoo is worth exploring. See what "Jungle" Jack Hanna's so proud of.

4850 Powell Road, Powell, 614-645-3400  
[columbuszoo.org](http://columbuszoo.org)

**Dawes Arboretum**

With nearly 2,000 acres, 12 miles of trails, and thousands upon thousands of living plants, everyone will find something to enjoy here. Areas like the Japanese garden, Dawes Lake and Glacier Ridge offer themed collections.

7770 Jacksontown Road SE, Newark,  
 740-323-2355 | [dawesarb.org](http://dawesarb.org)



Franklin Park Conservatory

**Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

Explore desert, mountain and tropical plant habitats in biomes bursting with color and life. In the spring, watch butterflies hatch and fly away during "Blooms & Butterflies," and in winter, marvel at holiday lights in "Conservatory Aglow" and an annual orchid exhibition. A permanent collection of Dale Chihuly glass pieces adds another element of beauty to the gardens' blooms.

1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, 614-715-8000  
[fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org)

**Scioto Mile**

This riverfront green space is the "jewel of the city." At the south end, splash in the Bicentennial Park fountain (reopening in the first half of 2024) or grab a bite at Milestone 229. Enjoy the swings that line the walk north and admire the artful metalwork fountains. Seasonal programming ranges from concerts in Bicentennial Park's amphitheater to holiday light displays, and a number of annual festivals call the Mile home.

Downtown Columbus, along the Scioto River  
[sciotomile.com](http://sciotomile.com)

**Topiary Park**

Step into a life-size recreation of George Seurat's "A Sunday Afternoon on the Isle of La Grande Jatte," sculpted entirely from hedges. Self-guided, virtual and docent-led tours offer plenty of options for exploration.

480 E. Town St., Columbus, 614-645-0197  
[topiarypark.org](http://topiarypark.org)

**The Wilds**

Ever wanted to see a rhino, ostrich or cheetah up close? Here's your chance. Head to this drive-through safari park and conservation center to get a good look at a variety of exotic animals. Rentable, comfortable (and climate-controlled) yurts offer guests age 21 and up the chance to stay overnight and wake up to the sounds of zebras or African painted dogs in the distance.

14000 International Road, Cumberland  
 740-638-5030 | [thewilds.columbuszoo.org](http://thewilds.columbuszoo.org)

# INDEX OF RESOURCES

SECTION

07.

**“WHEN I FIRST MOVED HERE, I [THOUGHT]  
COLUMBUS WAS JUST GOING TO BE ANOTHER  
TEMPORARY STOP FOR ME. [MORE THAN]  
10 YEARS LATER ... COLUMBUS IS HOME.”**

**MICHAEL A. BUKACH**

CoverMyMeds | Employee Engagement Director

*Moved here in 2008 from New York City*

## COLUMBUS REGION RELOCATION GUIDE ★

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Numerous adolescents may be coping with early pregnancy or other concerns. **Mothers Helping Mothers** empowers young mothers between the ages of 12 and 24 and provides compassionate care to those with nowhere else to turn. Staff members with expertise in case management, counseling, personal finance, public relations, social work and legal concerns supervise personalized programs for individuals committed to their futures.  
[mhmtteen.org](http://mhmtteen.org)

The **Columbus Urban League**, part of the National Urban League, was founded in 1918 with the goal of advancing African Americans and other marginalized groups economically, educationally and socially to increase their level of self-determination. Individuals may donate their time in dozens of areas, including employment coaching, business resource organizations and intervention, and summer youth and rehabilitation programs.  
[cul.org](http://cul.org)

# 15 WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Central Ohio organizations offer multiple opportunities for those looking to improve their communities.

Beyond the emotional and physical satisfaction that comes from assisting those in need, volunteer work provides a sense of purpose and community, as well as an opportunity to acquire a new set of skills. The Columbus Region is home to an abundance of volunteer possibilities; below are a handful to get you started.



**All THAT** seeks devoted Columbus residents who can build a long-term connection with teenagers to help them identify future successes. Mentors aid students academically and offer career and life guidance through individual and group meetings, as well as activities and community service excursions.  
[all-that.org](http://all-that.org)

**LEON** was founded in 2002 as a network committed to fostering a healthy Latino community in Central Ohio through the creation and funding of education and empowerment programs. The efforts of LEON—or the Latino Empowerment Outreach Network—concentrate on health, education, advocacy and communication.  
[leongroup.org](http://leongroup.org)

Calling all experienced professionals: **ECDI Women's Business Centers** is looking for individuals to use their expertise and abilities to benefit female business owners. Volunteers will strengthen their professional network while assisting local small businesses, helping women achieve their goals and building communities.  
[wbcoho.org](http://wbcoho.org)

**Home for Families** believes education is the most important factor in preventing homelessness. HFF education services include programs that assist academic advancement, youth development and healthy families. The organization is particularly in need of volunteers on Tuesdays, when material goods are prepared for distribution.  
[homeforfamilies.org](http://homeforfamilies.org)



**Dreams on Horseback** offers a wide range of programs that are suitable for participants of all ages. Initiatives include therapeutic riding, equine-assisted learning, sensory experiences for those with Alzheimer's disease, vocational training, military programs, field excursions and team-building. No prior experience with horses is required.  
[dreamsonhorseback.org](http://dreamsonhorseback.org)



*Diners at the Freedom a la Cart Café + Bakery*

**Freedom a la Cart** empowers survivors of human trafficking to live free and autonomous lives. The organization established a rehabilitation facility where survivors may recover, improve and prepare for sustained employment and reintegration into society. Volunteers are sought in the catering kitchen, café and transportation departments, as well as mentorship roles. [freedomalacart.org](https://freedomalacart.org)

Eradicating “period poverty” is a group effort. **The Period Pantry Project** seeks to guarantee that everyone in the Columbus area who needs menstruation products has access to them, despite cost barriers, lack of transportation or other obstacles. Anyone can volunteer in the comfort of their own home by creating packaged period supply kits or hosting virtual fundraisers. Delivery drivers are also needed. [theperiodpantryproject.org](https://theperiodpantryproject.org)

As Ohio's largest donation-supported wildlife hospital with on-site veterinary care for wildlife rehabilitation, **Ohio Wildlife Center** serves all of the state's 88 counties and admits more than 7,500 animals annually. Volunteer opportunities include landscaping, grounds maintenance and animal transportation. [ohiowildlifecenter.org](https://ohiowildlifecenter.org)

The **Highland Youth Garden** provides children with a comprehensive, interactive learning environment, as well as the space and instruction necessary to grow their own food. Working with over 350 children each year, the half-acre garden annually produces over 3,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. Volunteers can assist with garden workshops; planting, seeding and weeding; building structures and signage in the garden; and digital fundraising and marketing projects. [highlandyouthgarden.org](https://highlandyouthgarden.org)

More than 170,000 daily meals are provided by the **Mid-Ohio Food Collective** to needy individuals in Central and Eastern Ohio. The great bulk of healthy food handled annually by the collective is distributed directly through its network of 680 member organizations. Volunteer duties include checking for expired food, opened packages and spoilage; marking cans; and packaging food and household products. [mofc.org](https://mofc.org)

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive support from **Open Door Columbus**, which encourages its members to get in touch with their creative sides. There are many different ways to become involved, some of which include serving as a mentor, helping out with creative programming, contributing to the garden, providing instruction in music and dance or taking part in collaborative art and craft projects. [opendoorcolumbus.org](https://opendoorcolumbus.org)



**Colony Cats** is a volunteer-run organization whose main objective is to combat cat overpopulation in Central Ohio through education and spay/neuter initiatives. Since 2002, the organization has put over 15,000 animals in homes. Volunteer possibilities include aiding the adoption center, assisting with events, feeding feral cats in controlled colonies and transporting animals to veterinarian clinics. [colonycats.org](https://colonycats.org)

**Kaleidoscope Youth Center Inc.**, founded by and for youths, employs a varied, experienced team that partners with LGBTQ+ young people in Columbus and around Ohio to offer free programming, housing and support services. Volunteer options include assisting with events, such as Other Prom, Pride Open House & Celebration, BarBQue and the Unity Soiree, the major autumn fundraiser. [kycoho.org](https://kycoho.org)

*A version of this story by Kevin Capron first appeared in the December 2022 issue of Columbus Monthly magazine.*

## A PERFECT MATCH

Central Ohio has so many opportunities for volunteerism and philanthropy, it can be a little overwhelming trying to choose. These organizations help simplify the process by matching you with opportunities based on your interests and availability.



### Columbus Gives Back

Emphasizing service with a social twist, Columbus Gives Back specializes in evening and weekend opportunities—perfect for busy professionals. The group emphasizes not only giving back to the community through volunteer work, but also fostering connectedness among its volunteers. It's guided by eight core principles: service, compassion, inclusivity, building community, unique, adaptability, integrity and fostering servant leadership. Partners include LifeCare Alliance, the YMCA and YWCA, Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio and more. [columbusgivesback.org](http://columbusgivesback.org)



### Besa

Besa specializes in direct-impact projects, meaning volunteers interact directly with the people benefiting from their service. It's named for an Albanian term, representing the idea that people can overcome their differences and join together to make a difference in their communities. The group, which started in 1992, has coordinated 1,500 community service projects across more than 50 partner agencies; popular projects include staffing fundraising events, providing manpower at food pantries, and baking cookies for clients of Directions for Youth & Families. [givebesa.org](http://givebesa.org)



### Seeds of Caring

Since 2019, Seeds of Caring has been working to connect children and families with volunteer opportunities designed to show them that they, too, can help change the world. By engaging with children ages 2 through 12 in a variety of service, social action and community-building experiences, Seeds of Caring helps teach empathy, confidence and social-emotional skills. Its programming is designed with age-appropriate education to help kids understand the context of the projects they're working on. The group's founder, Brandy Jemczura, was a finalist in the 2019 class of Everyday Heroes, an annual program produced by the *Columbus Dispatch*, *This Week News* and *Columbus Monthly* magazine to recognize local figures doing good in their communities. [seedsofcaring.org](http://seedsofcaring.org)



### Love Cbus

Founded after a local ministry received a donation of a fully built out networking database, Love Cbus' creators decided to use the database to create a network of volunteers and a directory for people who need help. Described as part social media platform, part phone book and part nonprofit email database, Love Cbus exists for one purpose: helping people. After joining the network, members get matched with organizations based on common interests. [lovecbus.org](http://lovecbus.org)



### Volunteer United

A program of United Way of Central Ohio, Volunteer United offers in-person and virtual opportunities to give back, as well as donation drives. Participants can become a reading buddy to a student in need, write notes of encouragement for individuals recovering from addiction, or sign up to shovel snow for an older adult. Partners include Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), St. Stephen's Community House, Flying Horse Farms and more. [volunteerunitedcbus.org](http://volunteerunitedcbus.org)

# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

The Columbus Region is religiously diverse, and houses of worship dedicated to virtually every faith are well-represented throughout the area.

**T**he three religions most represented in the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area and the 11-county Columbus Region as a whole are Christian: the Catholic Church, nondenominational and the United Methodist Church.\* Among non-Christian religions, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism all have local congregations, as do newer religions with universal messages—including the Bahá'í Faith and Unitarian Universalism.

Equality Ohio, an advocacy and education group focusing on LGBTQ+ equality, runs the Ohio Faith Coalition, a nonpartisan collection of individuals and religious organizations committed to supporting nondiscrimination.

\*Data from the 2020 "U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study," which is collected by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies and distributed by the Association of Religion Data Archives. The ASARB census collects data for the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties, as well as two other counties (Hocking and Perry) not in the Columbus Region; Knox County, part of the Columbus Region, is not included in the Columbus MSA. Visit [thearda.com](http://thearda.com) for more information.

## LEARN MORE

You can find more statistical information on area religious representation at [thearda.com](http://thearda.com).

Learn more about Equality Ohio at [equalityohio.com](http://equalityohio.com).



## KUMI WALKER Co-Founder, Embedded

I'm originally from the East Coast and relocated to Columbus from San Francisco in 2018, when I joined Root Insurance. I was fortunate that when I first moved here, I could get involved in the community to an extent not possible when we were in San Francisco. I joined the Bexley Minority Parent Alliance, the boards of COTA and Olive, and my wife and I joined Move to Prosper. All of them have been very impactful and helped us to feel more a part of the community.

We were pleasantly surprised by the racial and socio-economic diversity here—we felt it was a more interesting place to raise our children. We love living in Bexley, because it has a small-town feel. Our kids can go for bike rides on their own in our neighborhood, and they're massive Buckeyes and Columbus Crew fans. The Alum Creek Trail is my favorite bike trail, and where I ride to train for Pelotonia.

I've enjoyed getting back to the four seasons and getting together around a fire as a family. Hocking Hills is such a beautiful area, and close to home. There are a lot of things to love about Columbus. It's a breath of fresh air.

Columbus was as random as it gets for us, but it is absolutely a place we call home.

*As told to Laurie Allen*

# THE ROUNDUP

One of the most tedious aspects about moving to a new area is finding information on day-to-day services and resources. We've compiled some of the most common resources in the area to simplify the process for you.



## SAFETY



### EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911



### NON-EMERGENCY CITY DIVISIONS OF POLICE

Columbus	614-645-4545
Delaware	740-203-1111
Dublin	614-889-1112
Gahanna	614-342-4240
Grove City	614-277-1710
Hilliard	614-876-7321
Lancaster	740-687-6680
Marion	740-387-2525
Marysville	937-645-7300
Newark	740-670-7200
Pickerington	614-575-6911
Reynoldsburg	614-866-6622
Upper Arlington	614-459-2800
Westerville	614-882-7444
Whitehall	614-237-6333

**Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association**  
[buckeyesheriffs.org](http://buckeyesheriffs.org)

**Ohio State Highway Patrol**  
[statepatrol.ohio.gov](http://statepatrol.ohio.gov)



## RESIDENT SERVICES

**Golden Buckeye Senior Discount Card** 866-301-6446  
[aging.ohio.gov/goldenbuckeye](http://aging.ohio.gov/goldenbuckeye)

**Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel** 877-742-5622  
[pickocc.org](http://pickocc.org)

**Ohio Association of Free Clinics** 614-914-6458  
[ohiofreeclinics.org](http://ohiofreeclinics.org)

**Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles** 844-644-6268  
[bmv.ohio.gov](http://bmv.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Civil Rights Commission** 614-466-2785  
[crc.ohio.gov](http://crc.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Health** 614-466-3543  
[odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Insurance** 614-644-2658  
[insurance.ohio.gov](http://insurance.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Job and Family Services** 614-466-4815  
[jfs.ohio.gov](http://jfs.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Public Safety** 844-644-6268  
[publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Taxation** 800-282-1780  
[tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Housing Finance Agency** 888-362-6432  
614-466-7970  
[ohiohome.org](http://ohiohome.org)

**Ohio Voter Registration** 614-466-2655  
[myohiovote.com](http://myohiovote.com)

**Severe Weather Resources** 614-799-3695  
[weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://weathersafety.ohio.gov)

**The Supreme Court of Ohio  
& the Ohio Judicial System** 614-387-9000  
[supremecourt.ohio.gov](http://supremecourt.ohio.gov)



## UTILITIES

### AEP Ohio

A unit of American Electric Power  
[aepohio.com](http://aepohio.com)

800-672-2231

### Columbia Gas of Ohio

[columbiagasohio.com](http://columbiagasohio.com)

800-344-4077

### Department of Public Utilities (PUCO)

[puco.ohio.gov](http://puco.ohio.gov)

800-686-7826

614-466-3292

### AT&T

Internet, television (DIRECTV and U-verse) and phone service provider  
[att.com/local/ohio](http://att.com/local/ohio)

800-901-9878

### Breezeline

Internet, cable and phone service provider  
[breezeline.com](http://breezeline.com)

888-536-9600

### Spectrum

Internet, cable and phone service provider  
[spectrum.com](http://spectrum.com)

888-660-8825



## GYMS AND FITNESS CENTERS

Central Ohio is home to hundreds of locally owned gyms, fitness centers and specialty fitness studios for yoga, CrossFit, rock climbing, parkour, barre and more. Listed below are “big box” centers that are well-represented with multiple locations in the area.

### Anytime Fitness

[anytimefitness.com](http://anytimefitness.com)

Bellefontaine, Delaware,  
Grove City, London, Marysville,  
Mount Vernon, Westerville

### Crunch Fitness

[crunch.com](http://crunch.com)

Hilliard, Reynoldsburg

### Esporta Fitness

[esportafitness.com](http://esportafitness.com)

Columbus, Hilliard, Powell

### LifeTime Fitness

[lifetimefitness.com](http://lifetimefitness.com)

Columbus, Dublin,  
Pickerington, Upper Arlington

### Orangetheory Fitness

[orangetheory.com](http://orangetheory.com)

Bexley, Blacklick, Canal Winchester,  
Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna,  
Grandview Heights, Grove City,  
Hilliard, Lewis Center, New Albany,  
Pickerington, Upper Arlington,  
Westerville, Worthington

### Planet Fitness

[planetfitness.com](http://planetfitness.com)

Canal Winchester, Columbus,  
Delaware, Gahanna, Hilliard,  
Lancaster, Newark, Marion,  
Pickerington, Reynoldsburg,  
Whitehall, Worthington

### YMCA

[ymcacolumbus.org](http://ymcacolumbus.org)

Bellefontaine, Canal Winchester,  
Circleville, Columbus, Delaware,  
Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard,  
Powell, Reynoldsburg

Galion

[galioncenterymca.org](http://galioncenterymca.org)

Lancaster

[ymcalancaster.org](http://ymcalancaster.org)

Marion

[marionymca.org](http://marionymca.org)

Marysville

[unioncountyyymca.org](http://unioncountyyymca.org)

Mount Vernon

[mtvymca.org](http://mtvymca.org)

Newark, Pataskala

[lcfymca.org](http://lcfymca.org)



## COLUMBUS REGION LIBRARIES

Columbus' library system serves the city and surrounding suburbs with 23 branches. Partner libraries in the suburbs and rural cities (see listings on next page) extend the reach even further.



### Columbus Metropolitan Library System

96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus (main branch)

614-645-2275

[columbuslibrary.org](http://columbuslibrary.org)

## Local Branches

Barnett Branch: 3434 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus

Canal Winchester Branch: 115 Franklin St., Canal Winchester

Driving Park Branch: 1422 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus

Dublin Branch: 75 N. High St., Dublin

Franklinton Branch: 1061 W. Town St., Columbus

Gahanna Branch: 310 Hamilton Road, Gahanna

Hilliard Branch: 4500 Hickory Chase Way, Hilliard

Hilltop Branch: 511 S. Hague Ave., Columbus

Karl Road Branch: 5590 Karl Road, Columbus

Linden Branch: 2223 Cleveland Ave., Columbus

Marion-Franklin Branch: 2740 Lockbourne Road, Columbus

Martin Luther King Branch: 1467 E. Long St., Columbus

New Albany Branch: 200 Market St., New Albany

Northern Lights Branch: 4093 Cleveland Ave., Columbus

Northside Branch: 1423 N. High St., Columbus

Parsons Branch: 1113 Parsons Ave., Columbus

Reynoldsburg Branch: 1308 Brice Road, Reynoldsburg

Shepard Branch: 850 N. Nelson Road, Columbus

South High Branch: 3540 S. High St., Columbus

Southeast Branch: 3980 S. Hamilton Road, Groveport

Whetstone Branch: 3909 N. High St., Columbus

Whitehall Branch: 4445 E. Broad St., Columbus

## Partner Branches

### Alexandria Public Library

10 Maple Drive, Alexandria 740-924-3561  
[alexandrialibrary.org](http://alexandrialibrary.org)

### Bexley Public Library

2411 E. Main St., Bexley 614-231-2793  
[bexleylibrary.org](http://bexleylibrary.org)

### Delaware County District Library

Main: 84 E. Winter St., Delaware 740-362-3861  
 Orange Branch: 7171 Gooding Blvd., Delaware 740-549-2665  
 Ostrander Branch: 75 N. Fourth St., Ostrander 740-666-1410  
 Powell Branch: 460 S. Liberty Road, Powell 614-888-9160  
[delawarelibrary.org](http://delawarelibrary.org)

### Fairfield County District Library

Main: 219 N. Broad St., Lancaster 740-653-2745  
 Baltimore: 205 E. Market St., Baltimore 740-862-8505  
 Bremen: 200 School St., Bremen 740-569-7246  
 Johns: 116 E. High St., Amanda 740-969-2785  
 Northwest: 2855 Helena Drive NW, Carroll 740-756-4391  
[fcdlibrary.org](http://fcdlibrary.org)

### Grandview Heights Public Library

1685 W. First Ave., Columbus 614-486-2951  
[ghpl.org](http://ghpl.org)

### Granville Public Library

217 E. Broadway, Granville 740-587-0196  
[granvillelibrary.org](http://granvillelibrary.org)

### London Public Library

20 E. First St., London 740-852-9543  
[mylondonlibrary.org](http://mylondonlibrary.org)

### Marysville Public Library

Main: 231 S. Plum St., Marysville 937-642-1876  
 Raymond Branch: 21698 Main St., Raymond 937-246-4795  
[marysvillelib.org](http://marysvillelib.org)

### Pataskala Public Library

101 S. Vine St., Pataskala 740-927-9986  
[pataskalalibrary.org](http://pataskalalibrary.org)

### Pickaway County District Library

Main: 1160 N. Court St., Circleville 740-477-1644  
 Floyd E. Younkin Branch: 51 Long St., Ashville 740-983-8856  
[pickawaylib.org](http://pickawaylib.org)

### Pickerington Public Library

Main: 201 Opportunity Way, Pickerington 614-837-4104  
 Sycamore Plaza:  
 7861 Refugee Road, Pickerington 614-837-4383  
[pickeringtonlibrary.org](http://pickeringtonlibrary.org)

### Plain City Public Library

305 W. Main St., Plain City  
 During renovation: 249 W. Main St., Plain City 740-490-8614  
[plaincitylib.org](http://plaincitylib.org)

### Southwest Public Libraries

3959 Broadway, Grove City 614-875-6716  
[swpl.org](http://swpl.org)

### Upper Arlington Public Library

Main: 2800 Tremont Road, Upper Arlington 614-486-9621  
 Lane Road: 1945 Lane Road, Upper Arlington 614-459-0273  
 Miller Park: 1901 Arlington Ave., Upper Arlington 614-488-5710  
[ualibrary.org](http://ualibrary.org)

### Wagnalls Memorial Library

150 E. Columbus St., Lithopolis 614-837-4765  
[wagnallslibrary.org](http://wagnallslibrary.org)

### Worthington Libraries

Old Worthington: 820 High St., Worthington  
 Northwest: 2280 Hard Road, Columbus  
 Worthington Park:  
 1389 Worthington Centre Drive, Worthington 614-807-2626  
[worthingtonlibraries.org](http://worthingtonlibraries.org)



## GROCERY STORES

### Chains

Aldi	<a href="https://aldi.us">aldi.us</a>
Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market	<a href="https://freshthyme.com">freshthyme.com</a>
Giant Eagle	<a href="https://gianteagle.com">gianteagle.com</a>
Kroger	<a href="https://kroger.com">kroger.com</a>
Meijer	<a href="https://meijer.com">meijer.com</a>
Save-A-Lot	<a href="https://save-a-lot.com">save-a-lot.com</a>
Trader Joe's	<a href="https://traderjoes.com">traderjoes.com</a>
Whole Foods	<a href="https://wholefoodsmarket.com">wholefoodsmarket.com</a>

### Independent

International and family-owned markets abound in Columbus. Below are a few of the most popular and well-known.

#### Carfagna's Market

1440 Gemini Place  
[carfagnasmarket.com](https://carfagnasmarket.com)

#### The Hills Market

7860 Olentangy River Road  
95 N. Grant Ave.  
[thehillsmarket.com](https://thehillsmarket.com)

#### Istanbul Market

5227 Bethel Mall Center  
[istanbulmarketohio.com](https://istanbulmarketohio.com)

#### La Mega Michoacana

2175 Morse Road  
[la-mega-michoacana.business.site](https://la-mega-michoacana.business.site)

#### Lucky's Market

2770 N. High St.  
Additional location  
planned for Neil Ave.  
[luckysmarketsohio.com](https://luckysmarketsohio.com)

#### Michoacana Supermarket

5445 Bethel Sawmill Center  
166 S. Hamilton Road  
3160 S. Hamilton Road  
534 Norton Road  
3629 Sullivant Ave.  
[michoacanassupermarket.com](https://michoacanassupermarket.com)

#### Tensuke Market

1167 Old Henderson Road  
Upper Arlington  
[tensukemarket.japanmarketplace.com](https://tensukemarket.japanmarketplace.com)

#### Saraga International Grocery

2750 S. Hamilton Road  
1265 Morse Road  
[facebook.com/saraga3ohio](https://facebook.com/saraga3ohio)

#### Sunrise International Market

4030 W. Broad St.  
[facebook.com/sunriseinternationalmarket](https://facebook.com/sunriseinternationalmarket)

#### Weiland's Market

3600 Indianola Ave.  
[weilandsmarket.com](https://weilandsmarket.com)



## BANKS & CREDIT UNIONS

Bank of America	<a href="https://bankofamerica.com">bankofamerica.com</a>
CFBank	<a href="https://cfbankonline.com">cfbankonline.com</a>
Chase	<a href="https://chase.com">chase.com</a>
Columbus First	<a href="https://columbusfirstbank.com">columbusfirstbank.com</a>
Credit Union of Ohio	<a href="https://cuofohio.org">cuofohio.org</a>
Fifth Third	<a href="https://53.com">53.com</a>
First Commonwealth Bank	<a href="https://fcbanking.com">fcbanking.com</a>
First Financial	<a href="https://bankatfirst.com">bankatfirst.com</a>
First Merchants	<a href="https://firstmerchants.com">firstmerchants.com</a>
Heartland	<a href="https://heartlandbank.com">heartlandbank.com</a>
Huntington	<a href="https://huntington.com">huntington.com</a>
KEMBA Financial Credit Union	<a href="https://kemba.org">kemba.org</a>
KeyBank	<a href="https://key.com">key.com</a>
Park National	<a href="https://parknationalbank.com">parknationalbank.com</a>
PNC	<a href="https://pnc.com">pnc.com</a>
Telhio Credit Union	<a href="https://telhio.org">telhio.org</a>
U.S. Bank	<a href="https://usbank.com">usbank.com</a>
WesBanco	<a href="https://wesbanco.com">wesbanco.com</a>

# MOVING CHECKLIST

Moving is stressful. We're here to help make it a little easier with these tips and resources.

Let us be among the first to welcome you to your new home! Whether you've relocated to downtown Columbus, a quaint little town outside of the city or somewhere in between, your post-move checklist will probably look the same.

Read on for our tips on your first steps in your new locale and be sure to check out our Resources listings on the previous pages for information on area utilities, service providers and more. Helpful information on school districts, hospitals and other key institutions is listed throughout this guide.

## UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

- ☐ Make sure all of your financial and professional services, from your car insurance company to your magazine subscriptions, have your new address.
- ☐ Update your address with the IRS, Social Security Administration and other key agencies.

## GET REGISTERED

- ☐ Get your vehicle registered and, if necessary, obtain an Ohio driver's license or state ID. Both of these tasks can be completed at your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles office; visit [bmvo.ohio.gov](http://bmvo.ohio.gov) to find the office nearest you. Local tip: In Ohio, you can get in the BMV line online to save time!
- ☐ Register to vote! The Ohio Secretary of State's office has deadline information and a link to register online or request a paper form. Visit [olvr.sos.state.oh.us](http://olvr.sos.state.oh.us); you'll need your Ohio driver's license or state ID number to register online.



## SETTLING IN YOUR HOME

- ☐ Set up your utilities—the area's primary utilities are AEP Ohio for electric service and Columbia Gas of Ohio—as well as numerous providers for cable and internet.
- ☐ Replace the locks on your house to ensure no one has a spare key.
- ☐ Make sure your new home has working fire extinguishers and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## MAKE CONNECTIONS

- ☐ Connect to local media by subscribing to area newspapers and magazines.

## REGISTER YOUR PETS

- ☐ Ohio law requires dogs to be registered with the county auditor's office upon arrival, acquisition or once it reaches three months old, though some counties require registration by one month of age. One-year licenses generally cost between \$10 and \$35, depending on the county and the dog's spay/neuter status; some counties offer three-year and permanent licenses, too. Cats also need to be licensed in Madison County starting at three months old, but cats and other small house pets do not need to be licensed in the Columbus Region's 10 other counties. Check your local zoning and codes office for less-common pets, including farm animals—some cities don't allow backyard chickens, for example. And remember, Ohio law requires dogs to be confined to your personal property or under reasonable control—that is, on a leash—at all times! (Exceptions exist for dog parks and hunting dogs.)



“IF YOU COME TO THE CITY WITH  
A CURIOUS MIND AND A SENSE OF  
ADVENTURE, YOU’LL REALLY BE  
AMAZED AT ALL THE WONDER THE  
AREA HAS TO OFFER!”

**MELISSA RIZEK**  
Upstart | Senior HR Business Partner  
*Moved here in 2009 from Dayton, Ohio*

“COLUMBUS IS AN AMAZING PLACE  
FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. ... I LOVE  
THE GENUINE, COLLABORATIVE NATURE  
OF THE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES  
AND GOVERNMENT.”

**MAC JOSEPH**  
Paul Werth Associates | Senior Vice President  
*Moved here in 2016 from Chatham, New Jersey*

“WE ... WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED  
TO DISCOVER SO MUCH GREAT CULTURE  
IN AND AROUND COLUMBUS! WE  
ESPECIALLY LOVE THE QUALITY AND  
VARIETY OF DINING.”

**GINA DUNHAM**  
Meta | Business Portfolio Manager  
*Moved here in 2018 from San Francisco, California*

**ONE1**  
**COLUMBUS**

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